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of sparkle*

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Sale £895
Bench.
Was £219 **SAVE £60**
Sale £159

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Living • Dining • Sleeping

So much to love X

In this issue...

...make yourself a cuppa, put on your fluffiest slippers and *snuggle in* – we've got all you need to get set for the big day. Create a *magical mood* with seasonal buys (page 12), turn a kids' bedroom into an *enchanted grotto* (page 20) and discover a new decorating theme with our round-up of this year's *Christmas trends* (page 31). We've got your gift list covered with our guide to the *best presents for under £50* (page 36), find out how to give your home an *elegant country look* for a relaxed Christmas (page 101) and don't miss our recipes for our favourite *festive tipples* on page 167. Cheers!



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Get ready for
the festivities
with our top buys



READ THIS ON YOUR TABLET

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ON THE COVER VOLUME 191 ISSUE 4

Embrace the festive season and create a celebratory mood with our top finds

Find the perfect presents for loved ones with our high-street edit

Try a new look at Christmas with this year's trends

Create a relaxed, welcoming feel in your home with our decorating tips



Please a crowd with our guide to the best traditional Christmas lunch

Check out our favourite gift ideas and best seasonal homeware buys

Take a look inside four inspirational homes decorated for Christmas

Discover beautiful decorations to bring the magic into your home

STYLING SARITA SHARMA PHOTOGRAPH DOMINIC BLACKMORE



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SHOPPING DIRECTORY
FOR WHERE TO BUY ITEMS
FEATURED IN IDEAL HOME, TURN TO **PAGE 216**



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My to-do list for December

The things I'll be planning, doing and shopping for this month

With Christmas on the way, I'll be getting prepared, creating a beautiful mess with the kids and planning a get-together.

ENJOYING THE RUN-UP As with any holiday, I enjoy the planning of Christmas as much as the event itself. I'll gladly sacrifice my precious weekend sofa time to throw myself into a whirl of organising. Anything that requires lists generally makes me happy and Christmas inspires a lot of them! I'll make sure the house is sparkling, dealing with dusty skirting and corner cobwebs that I don't mind living with the rest of the year, just because I know Ma Richmond notices these things. I'll add whisky to my Ocado order with Pa Richmond in mind and put a reminder in my phone to buy both the *Radio Times* and *TV Times*, even though they both cover all the channels these days, because my sister and I still go through them circling what we want to watch.

GETTING HANDS-ON I'm not a hardcore crafter, but I do enjoy making things at Christmas, especially if the littlest Richmonds are involved. From wonky mince pies to paper chains and home-made cards, 'tis the season when the quality of the results is utterly outweighed by the truth of 'it's the thought that counts'. The children treat

me like another kid on these occasions, reminding me that 'we have to share, Auntie Nessa' if I hog the glue stick and giving me disapproving looks if I pretend to sneeze out green glitter. Now they're old enough to play with cool stuff, I've been looking at gifts with my own secret agenda. I hope Santa brings the *Frozen Sparkling Ice Castle* Lego set this year!

HOSTING A WRAP PARTY No, not the celebrity kind, but the sort where you get folks to bring all the gifts they need to wrap and get down to it in a mass frenzy of paper, gold ribbon, sticky tape and snacks. Christmas jumpers, or at the very least comedy reindeer antlers, are obligatory. As are crooners on the stereo and an abundance of Quality Street. This way, I hope, I'll dodge the usual last-minute wrap panic on Christmas Eve, falling in to bed just before the littlest Richmonds wake us all up with shouts of 'He's been!!!!'.

Vanessa

Vanessa Richmond, Acting Editor

P.S. When you get a mo, check out the Christmas channel at Housetohome.co.uk for loads of inspiration, including videos for easy makes and decoration ideas to get you in the festive mood!



The aim: not to still be wrapping gifts at 1am on Christmas morning

Christmas is a time to get creative



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HELLO, WE'RE IDEAL HOME!

Together, we are a team of... multitasking mums, independents, wise empty nesters, single ladies ('all the single ladies...'), attached ladies, fierce Millennials, mellow mid lifers, property owners, free spirits, animal lovers, star bakers, crafters, DIY champions, health nuts, sofa slobbers, geeks and goddesses... but, above all, we're passionate home makers. Nice to meet you!

♥ Go to housetohome.co.uk/idealhomemagazine to see more of what we do – you can sign up to our treat of a weekly newsletter there, too...

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What's behind a Howdens kitchen?





Turn the page to read our story...

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Howdens Joinery is the UK's largest manufacturer and supplier of fitted kitchens, appliances and joinery products.

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IDEAL HOME *Shopping Spy*

See Style Editor Michela's essential edit of what's in the shops this month



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String along
A versatile accessory in classic Christmas colours
Pompom garland, £7.50, Berry Red

What a star
Hang this simple piece for instant Scandi style
Grey star hanging decoration, £5.75, Scandi Living

High light
Team with an Edison bulb for a cool industrial look
Brooklyn antique flat pendant light in Dark Pewter, £69, Industville

Natural touch
Go for a rustic vibe with a soft linen design
Lexington cushion, £62, Dash & Albert range, Kensington Design

Wise words
Put up this cute sign for a warm welcome
Have Yourself print, £31.99, Art.co.uk

MOOD OF THE MOMENT...

Merry morning

Gather round for a lively family breakfast and get set for the excitement of the day

FOR WHERE TO BUY ITEMS SHOWN, TURN TO OUR SHOPPING DIRECTORY



Table talk
Add a farmhouse feel
Baxter distressed dining table (H76cm x W220cm x D95cm), £799, Out & Out Original



In the bag
Fill with gifts for your guests
Snowflake present sack, £12.50, Cox & Cox



Wood works
Get in the festive spirit with a classic sled
Sleigh, £7.99, HomeSense



Red alert
Keep it simple with this two-tone design
Red reactive dinnerware, £50 for a 12 piece set, Sainsbury's

All white
Choose a frosted faux tree
Swift 6ft medium flocked noble artificial tree, £135, White Stores



Bargain buy
Pop little gifts in it for a Christmas morning treat
Star jute stocking, £1, Poundland



Give your dining room
Scandi style with a simple
red and white palette
Portobello table, £199;
Marseille chairs, £49 each;
stool, £25; red dinnerware,
£20 for a 12-piece set;
all Tesco Direct

BE
CANDLE
SAFE

LOOK WHAT
WE FOUND!



£9.99

Get organised in style

Christmas countdown board, Dunelm

See more finds on Michela's blog
homeshoppingspy.com

RESCUING *the* BLAND





Animal magic
Go for a forest feel
with a trio of creatures
Woodland scene glass
bauble, £3.50, Tesco Direct



Clear winner
Fill with lights, sweets
or snowy decorations
for a bespoke display
Glass Christmas jars,
£40 each, Cox & Cox

Everybody's
DOING...

Snow scenes

Create a frosty winter wonderland with glass domes and delicate hanging decorations

FOR WHERE TO BUY ITEMS SHOWN, TURN TO OUR SHOPPING DIRECTORY

Hats off
Add a touch of glitter
with this smart chap
Penguin in a globe,
£5, Marks & Spencer



Let it snow
Shake it up for a
magical moment
Snow globe, £22,
Laura Ashley



Golden rules
Let this dashing deer
add the Midas touch
Tree and deer dome,
£19, Monsoon



Hello Santa
For a rustic look
Light up scene, £12,
The Contemporary
Home



Festive find
Sure to be a classic
year after year
Glass dome
decoration, £3.50,
Tesco Direct



White out
Update a snow globe with
a cool bark-effect base
Deer's snow globe,
£25, House of Fraser



GET THE LOOK IN 3 BUYS Peacock blue

**Finest
feathers**
Bring a sense
of opulence to
your scheme
Wreath, The
Contemporary
Home



£55



£3.50

Glitter ball
Sparkling in a
spectrum of blues
Peacock glitter bauble,
Notonthehighstreet.com



£649

Sitting pretty
Recline in comfort
on the big day
Eltham chair in Lasenby
Teal, Marks & Spencer

LOOK WHAT WE FOUND!



£14.50
for two

Bring a little Christmas cheer
Festive tea towels,
Rockett St George

See more finds on Michela's
blog homeshoppingspy.com

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SO HOT *Right Now*

Polar bears are having a moment



£9.50
for two

Two's company
Hang on door handles for extra sparkle
Pair of hanging polar bears, Cox & Cox

Bear necessities

Team with a faux-fur throw
Polar bear cushion, George



£7



£99

Care bear
Let this cute chap hold up treats for Santa
Polar bear side table, BHS

LOOK WHAT WE FOUND!



£4.99

Wish your diners well with a happy hidden message
Gold-rimmed plate, H&M

See more finds on Michela's blog homeshoppingspy.com

THE NEXT BIG THING Precious minerals

Designers are being inspired by the Earth's natural gems

FOR WHERE TO BUY ITEMS SHOWN, TURN TO OUR SHOPPING DIRECTORY



Go green
Make people envious
Makrana wallpaper in Emerald 110918, £59 per roll, Harlequin range, John Lewis

THE STORY SO FAR Traditional white marble has been a key trend for some time, but it's coloured marble and the swirling layers of malachite, onyx and agate that keep cropping up in high-end design for furniture, accessories and wallcoverings.

WHERE WE'VE SEEN IT Ahead of the trend was Fornasetti at Cole & Son, which launched its Malachite wallpaper in 2007. In 2013, Patricia Urquiola commemorated the Emilia earthquake with a collection of furniture and accessories made from layers of coloured marble and onyx unearthed by the disaster. The Albatre wallpaper design by Casamance followed in 2014, succeeded by the swirling marble-effect Makrana wallpaper from Harlequin this year.

LATEST RELEASES Jonathan Adler has added malachite-effect accessories to his quirky collection. Tom Faulkner's Siena side table and Gubi's Gamfrasetti series of side and coffee tables come in green, black and brown marble. The high street has already caught on, so look out for agate coasters at Marks & Spencer, black and green marble-effect ceramics at H&M, and hints of emerald and onyx-effect agate in John Lewis' Indulgence collection.

Shelf life
With a luxe hint of gold
Green marble shelf, £68, MiaFleur



Stone's throw
Comes in three hues
Terrazzo cushion, £45, Bloomingville range, Amara



Natural beauty
Each piece is unique
Agate decorative object, £40, John Lewis



Top table
Inspired by the glamorous Thirties
Medium TS table, £520, Viaduct



Learn the art of
feet-upmanship.

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A quality sofa that'll add a touch of class to any living space. harveysfurniture.co.uk

Copenhagen Sofa in leather from £999, fabric from £899, shown with the Quintrell Large Sideboard
in black from £799 and Titan Coffee Table from £449.

**Bay Leather
Republic**
COLLECTION

HARVEYS

3 of the best CHRISTMAS TABLEWARE



Star buy
Perfect for a
steaming hot
chocolate
Red Christmas
mug, H&M

£5.99

£12

Cake anyone?
Serve up in style
Christmas pie slice,
Ashley Thomas at Home
range, Debenhams



£7.50
each

Bowled over
Fill with treats and indulge
in front of the fire
Christmas bowls, Scandi Living

LOOK WHAT WE FOUND!



£20

Opt for a folksy motif
Tis the season to be jolly
cushion, House of Fraser

See more finds on Michela's
blog homeshoppingspy.com

FEATURE MICHELA COLLING, HOLLY CATFORD

Glass Santa bauble; ice skate decoration; 'Tis the season bauble; all £3 each; glass mini figures, £5 for four; glass reindeer bauble; Santa key, both £2 each; all George

FOR WHERE TO BUY ITEMS SHOWN, TURN TO OUR SHOPPING DIRECTORY

This month we love...

'The way that George's playful new range of decorations teams traditional Christmas characters with fun Americana'

Holly Catford, Acting Style and Decorating Assistant

IDEAL V GREAT DEAL

Get the look whatever your budget

£25

Modern monochrome
Hang in the living room or hallway
Christmas stocking, Ferm Living range, Smallable



£7.50

Dotty design
Add a sense of fun with a splattered effect
Paint dotted stocking, Paperchase



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IDEAL HOME ♥ MOODBOARD
Playful Prints



For details of this moodboard,
turn to page 96

Create a celebratory
mood by spelling festive
words in light-up letters



YOUR RECEIPT

Cushion, Cath Kidston.....	£35
Cloche, Sainsbury's.....	£12
Lamp, Cath Kidston.....	£75
Shopping trolley, Great Little Trading Co.....	£50
Nutcracker, House of Fraser.....	£30

TOTAL **£202**



WATCH OUR CHRISTMAS IDEAS VIDEOS AT
housetohome.co.uk/christmas



Mix ditsy, playful patterns in a bold yuletide palette of red, frosty white and aqua blue

CASH CLEVER *Decorator*

Get a festive kids' room for less than £205

Create a lively scheme for Christmas with bold colours, robot prints and touches of retro style

FOR WHERE TO BUY ITEMS SHOWN, TURN TO OUR SHOPPING DIRECTORY

A dog's life

This cutie was inspired by Cath's own pooch
Billie lamp, Cath Kidston

£75

Light it up

Try this seasonal alternative to a night light
Christmas scene light-up cloche, Sainsbury's

£12

Merry and bright

Add a cheery touch with a lively red cushion
Hampstead red rose cushion, Cath Kidston

£35

Trolley dash

A brilliant substitute for a present sack
Wooden shopping trolley, Great Little Trading Co

£50

Hit the beat

For classic Christmas charm
Drumming nutcracker, House of Fraser

£30

IDEAL GREAT DEAL

Get the look whatever your budget

Sweet dreams

Suits both modern and traditional schemes
Wilton single bedstead in white, John Lewis

£145

Head in the clouds

Counter a colourful room with a simple white design
Avebury single bed frame in Whitewash, Argos

£110

See more shopping inspiration over the page ▶

Find more kids' bedroom buys on the high street

Love this trend? Whether you want to try a lot of it or a little, here's where to shop

Give children's bedrooms a yuletide touch with fun accessories and festive bedding in a red and white palette.

TRY IT IN A SCANDI SCHEME

Go for a classic effect with pared-back, Scandi-style decorations from Tesco Direct. Choose soft textiles and rustic

touches for a cosy feel, then add personality with Christmas characters.

... OR WITH COOL KITSCH PRINTS

Create a retro look with playful Fifties-inspired designs from BHS, including teddy-bear motifs, statement lettering and traditional Santa illustrations.



Retro vibe

Play around with some fun-filled prints

Double Jolly Holiday bedding set, £40; double Santa One More Sleep bedding set, £40; all BHS

Silent night

Give them sweet dreams

Sack, £5; 'Santa this way' sign, £3.50; stockings, £1 each; jingle cushion; reindeer cushion; both £10 each; nutcracker soldier, £4; all Tesco Direct



£6

Snow show

Get in the right spirit with this winter-inspired scene

Christmas mug, Belle & Boo

£22

Shaken up

The perfect stocking filler

Santa snow globe, Debenhams



£30

Letters have it

Place in a window to give guests a warm welcome

Lit joy sign, Sainsbury's

FIND ALL THE DETAILS

DECORATION AND FURNITURE Wall painted in Blissful Blue silk emulsion, £24.49 for 2.5ltr, Dulux. Stars G23104 wallpaper, £29.95 per roll, Galerie range, Wallpaperdirect. Sisal Fine Boucle flooring in Platinum, from £36.50 per sq m, Kersaint Cobb & Company. Elis rug, £220, Cox & Cox. **Blind** made in Suffolk Check S Bluebell, £24.50 per m, Ian Mankin; **border** made in Bramley Sprig Cotton Duck, £20 per m, Cath Kidston. Windsor white single **bedsteads**, £180 each; Ragley single **mattresses**, £99.99 each; all Dunelm. Star **bedside cabinet**, £65; toy-box **seat**, £135; wooden **shopping trolley**, £50; all Great Little Trading Co. 7ft pre-lit **Christmas tree**, £195, John Lewis. **ON LEFT-HAND BED** Cotton sateen **fitted sheet**, £30; red check household **pillowcase**, £14; red check single **duvet cover**, £40; all Cologne & Cotton. Robots polkadot single **duvet cover** with **pillowcase**, £45;

cushion made in Woodland Rose Cotton Duck, £20 per m; **gifts** wrapped in Ditsy Christmas, £9 for three rolls; Ditsy **pyjama** set, £26; **stocking**, £15; all Cath Kidston. Red stripe **giftwrap**, £1.50 per sheet, Dots and Spots. Personalised hand-made **doll**, £55, Leah Halliday range; Nutcracker soldier **giftwrap**, £1.50 per sheet, Julia Davey range; both Notonthehighstreet.com. Knitted bobble **cat toy**, £10, Emily Button range, Marks & Spencer. **Ribbons**, from a selection, Jane Means. **ON RIGHT-HAND BED** Cotton sateen **fitted sheet**; red check Household **pillowcase**; red check single **duvet cover**; Robots polkadot single **duvet cover** with **pillowcase**; all as before. Robots **cushion**, £22; Robots **pyjama** set, £26; both Cath Kidston. 1935 Fellow **terrier**, £145; Classic 1909 **teddy bear**, £115; both Steiff. **ON BEDSIDE TABLE** Billie **lamp**, £75, Cath Kidston. Christmas light-up **cloche**, £12, Sainsbury's. **INSIDE**

TROLLEY Presents wrapped in Nutcracker soldier **giftwrap**; red stripe **giftwrap**; Ditsy Christmas **giftwrap**; **ribbons**; all as before. Nutcracker soldier **gift tag**, 85p, Julia Davey range, Notonthehighstreet.com. Spotty **giftwrap**, £1.50 per sheet, Dots and Spots. **ON SHELF** (from left) Rainbow **decoration**, £3, George. Advent **calendar**, £14.99, Dunelm. Grand Prix **racer**, £22, Hedgehog. Nutcracker **soldiers**, £30 each, House of Fraser. Noel **lighting set**, £99.99, Dobbies Garden Centres. **Robots**, from £24 each, After Noah. **ON/NEAR TREE** Christmas **bunting**, £15, Halfpinthome range, Notonthehighstreet.com. Festive Christmas **stocking kits**, from £9.50 each, LoveCrochet. **Decorations**, from a selection, George, House of Fraser and LoveCrochet. Personalised hand-made **doll**, as before. **ON BENCH** Seat **cushion**, £25, Great Little Trading Co. House **sewing basket**, £58, Cath Kidston



Make yourself at home

Bring cosy comfort to colder months with sumptuous velvets and rich colours

Eva sofa in Fox velvet £2,175; Velvet cushions from £40, Tolsey rug £340,
Fox and Cranberry Velvet £40 per metre, Chestnut paint from £34

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Stores nationwide

N
NEPTUNE

PERSONAL STYLE
'I've always designed things that I like and would want in my own home – that's really important to me,' says Emma



HIGH STREET *Heroes*

Emma Bridgewater

Meet the English designer whose much-loved pottery has graced dining tables for 30 years

FOR WHERE TO BUY ITEMS SHOWN, TURN TO OUR SHOPPING DIRECTORY

Having produced 15 million mugs after the first ones left the production line in 1985, Emma Bridgewater is incredibly proud to be still running her successful business producing unique pottery and homeware. Set up after Emma tried unsuccessfully to find a birthday present for her mother, the company now produces some of the most recognisable pottery designs on the market.

'I was looking for a special cup and saucer for my mum's dresser, but just couldn't find anything I liked,' explains Emma. 'I realised that there was a gap in the market for pottery that was both beautiful and practical.'

Today, the company is run by Emma and her husband Matthew Rice,

a painter, designer and author. Emma is responsible for the brand's signature spongeware patterns, while Matthew works on its collections, such as the popular Black Toast range.

Most of the production work is still done by hand at the factory in Staffordshire, and each piece is slightly different. The company, one of the largest employers in Stoke-on-Trent, has recently expanded into glass, tins, picnicware and home fragrances, as well as a wallpaper and fabric collection for Sanderson.

THE WOMAN BEHIND THE LOOK

Emma grew up in Oxford and just outside Cambridge, spending time with both her parents, who divorced when she was a child. She and



JUST MY TYPE

Make your nearest and dearest feel cosseted over the holiday season
Double duvet, £55; pillowcases, £9 each; all Black Toast range, Emma Bridgewater.
Below: Cake plate, £49.95; side plate, £17.95; both Christmas Joy Robin range, Emma Bridgewater



Matthew now live near Oxford and have four children. 'I am equally at home with grass or paving stones underfoot,' she says. 'I went to Oxford High School, which I completely loved, and I'm proud to be a governor there now. I then read English Literature at the University of London – the perfect training for a life in the manufacturing industry,' she laughs.

In the early Eighties, Emma worked briefly for a company called Warm &



Wonderful, which made woolly jumpers and other clothing. 'It was a fantastic company and a great experience,' she says. 'A year spent visiting women knitting in their houses was fascinating, but it probably made me more determined than ever to have a factory of my own one day.'

CAREER PATH

Although Emma never trained as a designer, she had experimented with making sponge-painted ceramics, so when it came to creating the perfect cup and saucer for her mother, it seemed natural to design it herself. That led to working from her bedroom in a flat in southwest London, where she kept a kiln and designed and made mugs, jugs and dishes. 'It was clear early on that people liked my ideas, perhaps because I've never been a slavish follower of fashion,' she says. 'I still find it exciting that we make things that people want to buy and have in their homes.'

Christmas is an important time for Emma, both personally and for the company. 'Christmas is a time for feasting and for making a table

“Christmas is a time for feasting and for making a table look rich and full”

look wonderfully rich and full, so it's a great time for buying pottery,' she says. 'This year, we have the most delicious turkey platter with a large multicoloured turkey walking across it, made using eight separate sponge colours. I think it's one of our nicest patterns to date.'

Emma will be spending Christmas at home with the family this year. It's an environment that reflects her love of the simple things in life and her approach to design. 'My house is fairly messy and informal, with dogs, cats and chickens, and a continuous parade of children passing through,' she explains. 'The kitchen is in the middle of our house, and it's where we love

to come together as a family. Matthew is an extraordinary and energetic gardener. He produces cut flowers and vegetables on a regular basis – we can never keep up with his home-grown beans and courgettes.'

THE EMMA BRIDGEWATER PHILOSOPHY

'Do it once and don't change it; only use things you love; only buy things you really want; and always have a picture of Elvis in the kitchen.' ➔

WHAT A HOOT

Decorate a dresser with these seasonal owl designs on a midnight-blue background. Plates, from £39.95 for two; mug, £39.95 for two; all Owls range, Emma Bridgewater



EMMA'S PICKS

From the 2015 Christmas range



ROSY RECEPTION

Pick a radio that will pretty up a dresser as well as give great sound. Rose and Bee mini retro DAB/FM radio, £79.95, Emma Bridgewater



LAVISH LETTERING

Choose a dramatic centrepiece for the Christmas Day table. Medium Black Toast Feasting platter, £59.95, Emma Bridgewater



CHEEKY CHAP

Feel Christmassy with this design featuring the nation's favourite bird. Snowstorm Robin mug, £19.95, Emma Bridgewater



REACH FOR THE STARS

This blue-and-white china will bring sparkle to a festive feast. Plate, from £12.95; baby mug, £13.95; Starry Skies range, Emma Bridgewater



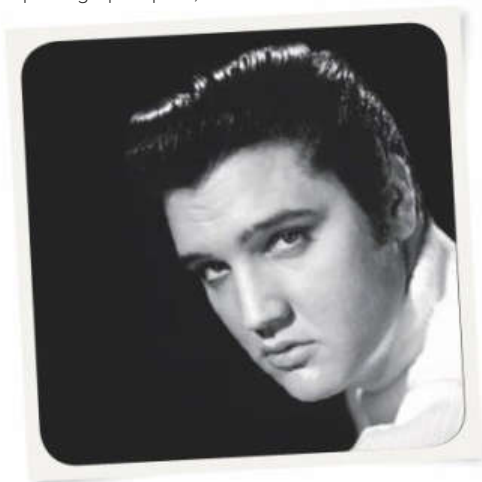
SHELF LIFE
The Kitchen Dresser wallpaper has a country-kitchen feel. The Dresser wallpaper, £83 per roll, Emma Bridgewater range, Sanderson

HEAVEN SCENT
'I love paperwhite narcissi – they brighten up a room on a grey day and make it smell completely gorgeous,' says Emma



SITTING PRETTY
Pick a fruit pattern. Figs cushion in Rose Pink/Moss; Pomegranate cushion in Duck Egg; from £39.95 each, Sanderson range, Emma Bridgewater

ROCK'N'ROLL
Emma's kitchen features a picture of Elvis. Elvis Presley 1956, from £21.99 for a 30cm x 41cm photographic print, Art.co.uk



Emma's inspiration...



GET TO KNOW HER SIGNATURE STYLE From the very beginning, Emma knew she wanted to make

pottery that could be used and enjoyed every day. 'Matthew and I only design things we love and would like to own ourselves,' she says. 'Things that are beautiful to look at but also a pleasure to use, such as a lovely mug that feels just right in your hand, or a bowl with a playful message that makes you smile every time you eat from it.'

A lot of ideas for the Emma Bridgewater collections come from appreciating the simple pleasures of everyday life, such as bringing people together around the kitchen table. 'Our Marmalade pattern was inspired by a family tradition of stocking the

cupboards with home-made marmalade every year, and we made our deep pasta serving bowl after I struggled to find one big enough to feed a hungry family of six,' says Emma.

Growing up in a busy, bustling household as the eldest of eight children has been a big influence on Emma's life and her mother's kitchen dresser, which was laden with family treasures and mismatched mugs, plates and bowls, undoubtedly provided her with inspiration. 'When I was a child, our house and especially our kitchen was always more fun than other people's,' she says. 'It felt more welcoming and generous, and I have always wanted to reproduce my mother's trademark warmth and relaxed hospitality for my own family and friends to enjoy.'

FEATURE KAREN BRAY

HOME BREW
A perfect gift for a winter wedding or a silver or gold anniversary

Mr & Mrs four cup teapot, £59.95, Black Toast range, Emma Bridgewater





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frosty decorations
on the tree

Frosted glass bauble
in Copper, £2,
John Lewis



Time to reflect
Mix it up with pretty
textured decorations

Pink metallic bauble,
£2.50, Next



Fabulous flake

There's no such
thing as too
much sparkle

Sequin detail
snowflake, £5.95,
Gisela Graham
range, Selfridges



Cracking time

No Christmas dining
table is complete
without crackers

Silver snowflake
crackers, £25 for 10,
House of Fraser



Glow on

Candlelight will create
a magical atmosphere

Decorative honeycomb
glass candle holder,
£7.99, The Christmas
Boutique

*Frosted
Fairytale*

Icy iridescence, hints of
pale pink and a sprinkling
of glitter will create a
winter wonderland



Welcome home
It'll twinkle beautifully
in the winter sun

White sparkly wreath, £40,
The Contemporary Home

Top table
Use this sculptural
decoration as a
striking centrepiece

Silver calabash,
£7.60, Adventino

Dainty deer

Buy a few to use
as place settings

White glitter
reindeer decoration,
£2.50, BHS



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shades of grey
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from £3.25 each;
cushions, from £45
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range, House Envy



Count down
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£160, Out There Interiors

Urban edge

Team pale wood with metallics,
industrial materials and black
and white accessories
for a rough-luxe look

Monochrome magic
Fill with luxurious treats
Antares star stocking,
£60, Tori Murphy

Seeing stars
These classic copper
beauties will look good
year after year
Sketch star baubles,
£16.50 for six, Cox & Cox

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lights for extra sparkle
Geometric brass wreath,
£68, Pod range,
Notonthehighstreet.com



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No need to tell us twice!
Open Me tape, £6.95
for 50m, Marby and Elm

Branch out
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take on a trad tree
Arran large
tree (H275cm),
£90, Habitat



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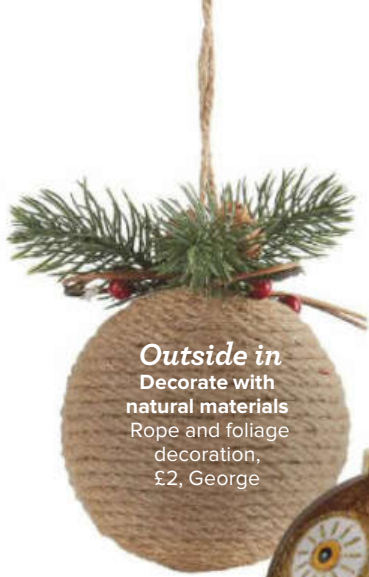
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decoration,
£2, George

What a hoot
Kids will love
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Glass owl bauble,
£2, Wilko



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Share the love with
this rustic heart wreath
Pine cone wreath,
£7, Wilko



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Add a few forest
critters to your scheme
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each; stripe throw, £20;
giftwrap, from £1; baubles,
from £1 each; all George



**Make
some noise**
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Luxury midwinter
forest crackers, £40
for six, Cox & Cox

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Go for a cosy, country-style
theme with forest animals,
felt decorations, foliage
and rustic wood

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The bark-effect finish
adds an instant forest feel
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£8, House of Fraser



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to display each year
Bird in glass bauble,
£3.49, Wyevale
Garden Centres

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woodland' more than a
glittery squirrel?
Squirrel ornament,
£4.99, Dobbies
Garden Centres



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Go all out with this impressive
berry-covered tree
7ft Baileys berry and cone
tree, £180, John Lewis

FEATURE MICHELA COLLING, HOLLY CATFORD



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Gilded wordy side plates, West Elm



COCKTAIL HOUR

Help someone channel their inner bartender
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Casa Couture range, House of Fraser



TAKE NOTE

These cute, uplifting cards will
brighten up anyone's day
Quote cards, Matalan



CHEESE COURSE

For those who like to entertain in style
Marble cheese board with
four copper knives, Oliver Bonas



BURN BRIGHT

Fill a friend's home with the scent of
patchouli, cinnamon, cedarwood and cloves
Birch & Brook candle, The British Library



MAGIC MOMENTS

Perfect for a dreamer who loves
the enchantment of Christmas
Pink and gold cushion, H&M



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Know someone with a glam home?
They'll love these decadent diffusers
Mini diffuser trio, Biba range, House of Fraser



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Just the thing for storing pencils,
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Big Useful purse in Dotty Pug, Poppy Treffry



TWO TONE

Mixing luxe with industrial, this is
a stylish gift for the design savvy
Concrete and gold drip vase, MiaFleur



HOME MAKER

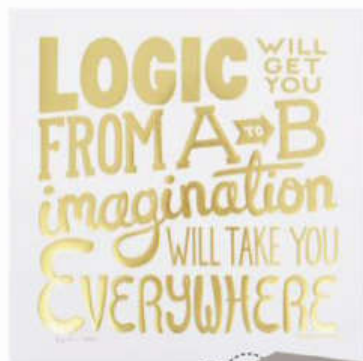
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Utility noticeboard (H51cm x
W61cm x D6.5cm), Wilko



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Succulent care kit, Etsy



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Send some positive vibes to your nearest and dearest
Imagination print, The Calm Gallery



£15

HANKY PANKY

These whimsical hankies would make a smart accessory for any well-dressed gent
Blown Away handkerchief set, Unique & Unity



£40

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Crafted from a single metal pipe, this will appeal to devotees of minimalist living
Twist copper candlestick, Oliver Bonas



£39.99

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They'll learn a new craft and get to sample the finished product
Home-made gin kit, The Fowndry



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Keep delicate hands protected
Blooming Lovely garden gloves, Caroline Gardner



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Brass word paperweight, West Elm



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Colouring book, Joy



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HEAVEN SCENT

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Ethically sourced for the eco aware
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£35
for four



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Dark Maple, Bronte by Moon



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£8

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Children can create their own Christmas
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Stamp set, Paperchase



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A humorous, modern take on
draughts for kids and adults alike
Mesdames & Messieurs, Unique & Unity



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fill these four dishes with gastro delights
Pie dishes gift set, Falcon Enamelware



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Help a busy socialite plan the year ahead
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range, Northlight Homestore



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Hat knitting kit, Wool and the Gang
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GARDENERS' WORLD

Featuring A-to-Z retro seed packets, this can would be useful for green-fingered folk
Roots & Shoots watering can, Magpie



SCREEN PLAY

Movie buffs can create a home cinema by projecting movies from a phone onto a wall
Smartphone projector, Sainsbury's



MIDAS TOUCH

Fill with a favourite tippie
As Good as Gold hip flask, Ted Baker range, House of Fraser



CARE BEAR

Little ones will love cuddling up to this soft, traditional teddy
Spencer bear, Marks & Spencer



COOKIE MONSTER

GBBO addicts can try their hand at baking with this retro-style kit
Cookie stamp kit, Mason Cash range, Very



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Perfect for framing this year's special Christmas memories
Geo-print photo frame (4in x 6in), Paperchase



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This will melt the hearts of fromage fans who like theirs hot and gooey
Ceramic Camembert baker, John Lewis



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It wouldn't be Christmas without carols performed on repeat
Red harmonica, Dotcomgiftshop



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LATTJO indoor range from £5



‘Traditional style is so cosy during winter’

Sarah and Paul Norton have given their home a relaxed country look that’s perfect for creating an enchanted feel at Christmas time

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BE
CANDLE
SAFE

1 Living room

The couple knocked out a tiled fireplace and restored the original inglenook to give the living room inviting country character
Buttoned ottoman, £425;
tree decorations, from
£1.50 each; all Sarah
Norton Interiors

The big
CHANGE

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REPLACING THE KITCHEN,
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AND REDECORATING
THROUGHOUT



Take the 60-SECOND TOUR

BOUGHT FOR	SPENT	NOW WORTH
£425,000	£91,000	£625,000



THE PROPERTY

A three-bedroom, 17th-century thatched cottage, near Andover, Hampshire. The owners bought it in November 2004.

WHAT IT COST

Roof rethatching.....	£24,000
Exterior render and building work.....	£32,000
Kitchen.....	£10,000
Bathroom.....	£13,000
Studio.....	£12,000
TOTAL	£91,000

WHO LIVES HERE

Sarah and Paul Norton, with their children, Ella, 11, and Violet, seven. Sarah is an interior designer and Paul is a director at an IT firm.

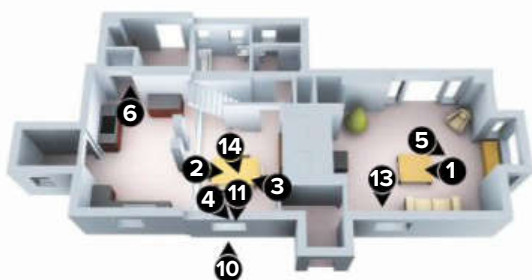
THE LOOK

Modern country, with a focus on textiles and accessories.

LESSONS LEARNED

“Project-managing the work myself meant I had first-hand knowledge of every element.”

FIRST FLOOR ▶
Upstairs there are three bedrooms and a bathroom



◀ GROUND FLOOR

The living room is to the right of the front door and the kitchen-diner is to the left. At the back of the house, there's a bathroom and a utility room





Get the
LOOK
PAGE 56

2 Kitchen-diner
A cream scheme creates a calming mood. Sarah makes a beautiful fresh greenery garland for the inglenook every Christmas. For a similar candelabra, try the five-arm Carlisle pendant, from £167, Jim Lawrence



3 Kitchen-diner

'We had to design our kitchen round the ancient beams,' says Sarah. Oak flooring gives the space a warm feel. Wiltshire ladder-back chairs, £690 for six, The Cotswold Company

Sarah and Paul Norton's Hampshire cottage is chocolate-box perfect now, but it took a lot of hard work to make it happen. 'It's one of the oldest houses in the village,' says Sarah. 'We could see it had potential as a family home, with a spacious kitchen and dining area, a good-sized living room and a beautiful garden, but we were in for a few surprises when it came to redecorating.'

The cottage is located in a rural hamlet near Andover. It had been a weekend bolthole for its former owner, and had suffered a series of botched repair jobs over the years, the worst of which was a layer of cement render that caused damp in the 17th-century walls. 'The building's original horsehair cob was so damp, much of it just fell away,' says Sarah.

The couple began the restoration process by employing a specialist builder to render the property inside and out with horsehair and lime. New hand-blown single-glazing was made to comply with the cottage's Grade-II ➔

4 Dining room

Every year Sarah puts a Christmas display in the window that overlooks the village green

Hand carved wooden snowflakes, £7.95 each; metal tealight, £7.50; all Sarah Norton Interiors



5 Living room

'The window bench is a great place to sit and read or watch the birds outside,' says Sarah

For a similar bench, try the Tetbury hall, £249, The Cotswold Company. Alpine bunting, £75; cushions, from £58 each; all Jan Constantine



'On Christmas morning, we join the rest of the village for a drink in the pub before eating lunch'



6 Utility room

Sarah has given the practical utility area a pretty look with a country-style storage bench and a matching wall shelf unit above it
For a similar bench, try the Caldecote bench set, £525, The Cotswold Company. Twig heart, from £14.95, Sarah Norton Interiors

listed status. Other major work included laying oak flooring throughout the ground floor and installing a new bathroom inspired by a smart en suite Sarah and Paul had seen at a b&b.

The couple also replaced the dated kitchen. 'All the cabinets had to be made by hand because none of the walls are even,' says Sarah, who added personality to the space by hanging a floral wallpaper behind glass splashbacks.

Putting right the old decorating mistakes ate into the couple's budget, but it enabled interior designer Sarah to use her creative skills to the full. By decorating rooms in soft neutral shades and layering texture to add warmth, she has given her home a comfortable, contemporary look, while never straying too far away from its period roots. 'My secret is to produce moodboards,' she says. 'I spend time tearing images out of magazines and looking at paint colours and fabrics. It helps you to plan your look and to keep to your budget.'

Customisation is another one of Sarah's decorating tricks – she has altered many pieces



to create something unique. 'I chose an oak cabinet for the bathroom, but I didn't like its handles, so I swapped them for hand-crafted ones from a specialist maker,' she says. 'It's not a complicated thing to do, but it can make all the difference when you're trying to bring a sense of individuality to your home.'

A neutral colour scheme throughout the house sets a calm mood. 'I know from other projects I've done that the best way to create harmony is to use a similar palette of colours and to ensure there are no harsh distinctions between rooms,' says Sarah. 'A harmonious feeling is important in a house like this with so many different levels and nooks and crannies.'

Sarah also works as a florist, so as Christmas approaches, she is busy creating garlands of fresh and silk flowers, and sumptuous festive displays. In her own home, every room is adorned with pretty candle arrangements and hand-made decorations.

The advantage of the cottage's relaxed colour palette and simple style means it can ➔

‘We could see it had potential as a family home, but we were in for a few surprises when it came to redecorating’



7 *Main bedroom*

A large seasonal garland adorns the French-style bed. ‘I love to bring Christmas into every room,’ says Sarah

King-size bed, £1,075; bedside table, £225; both Sarah Norton Interiors. For a similar box, try the blue antique trunk, £795, Orchid Furniture

8 *Main bedroom*

Soft blue walls create a tranquil mood. ‘I absolutely love this colour – it’s perfect for a bedroom,’ says Sarah

Dressing table, £565; mirror, £150; stool, £295; all Sarah Norton Interiors. Walls painted in Pale Powder Estate Emulsion, £38 for 2.5ltr, Farrow & Ball

3 of the best EMBROIDERED BUYS



£1.50
each

Stars of wonder
Hang these Scandi-style stars on the tree
Merry & Bright embroidered star decorations, Wilko

Chalet chic
Cosy up a bed with this wintry mountain scene
Alpine Chalet cushion, Jan Constantine



£108



£18

Frosty feeling
Give the dining table a festive flourish
Christmas table runner, Debenhams





‘A harmonious feeling is important in a house like this with so many different levels and nooks and crannies’

9 Violet's bedroom

Sarah bought the bed and cupboard from a company that specialises in antique French furniture and had them painted in a soft grey. Quilt, from £235; duck-egg bird lampshade, £34; both Susie Watson Designs



10 Dining room

One of Sarah's favourite Christmas moments is putting the finishing touches to her dining-room window display

Glass domes, from £34 each, Sarah Norton Interiors. For a similar table lamp, try the Lyndhurst, £65, Laura Ashley

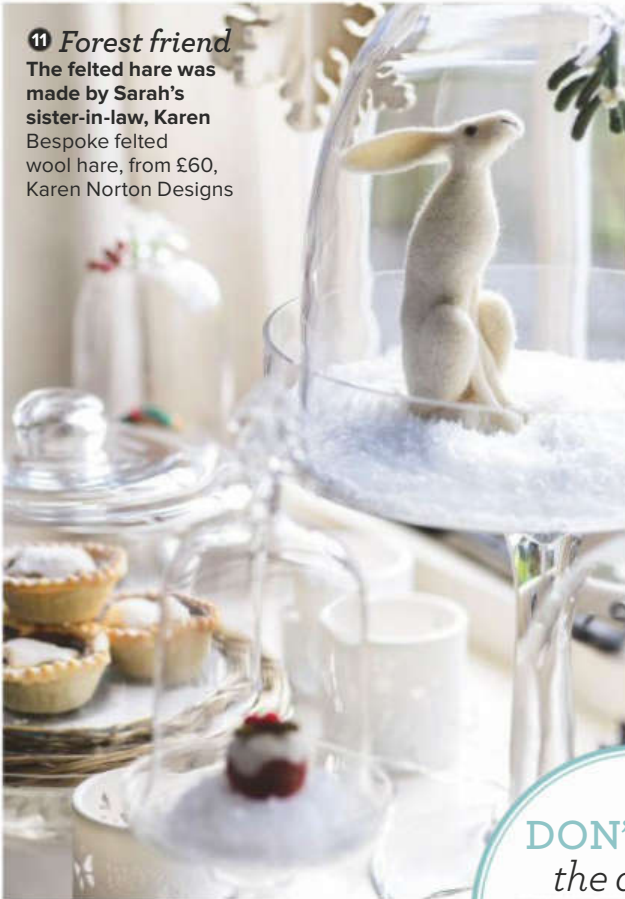
be easily transformed to celebrate the festive season. Sarah sets the mood using wreaths, garlands and baubles, which she decorates by hand. ‘I paint them so they’re all unique and, after producing them all year round, I love finally seeing them up at Christmas,’ she says.

Sarah's seasonal display in the dining-room window has become something of a village institution. ‘I’m known locally for having a stall of decorations at the Christmas fair, so people will often come and have a peek in the window to see what’s going to be on offer,’ she says. ‘I love people looking at my window display, but I do draw the line if we’re all sitting here eating Sunday lunch!’

When Sarah has completed her final Christmas fair and dispatched all of her customers' orders, it's time for the family to enjoy a few yuletide traditions. ‘The girls and I love to dress the tree, and on Christmas Eve, Paul bakes mince pies,’ she says. ‘Then, on Christmas morning, we join the rest of the village for a drink in the pub before eating lunch and finally unwrapping our presents.’

11 Forest friend

The felted hare was made by Sarah's sister-in-law, Karen Bespoke felted wool hare, from £60, Karen Norton Designs

**12 Soft touch**

Bold embroidered cushions add a festive touch to Sarah's bedroom. Cushions, from £55 each, Jan Constantine



DON'T MISS
the details

Sarah creates a welcoming feel at Christmas time with soft textures and natural foliage

**13 Berry display**

Candy canes and bells help to make a cheerful seasonal display. Bells, £7.50 for 12, Gisela Graham range, The Contemporary Home

**14 Centrepiece**

Sarah made this candle garland using silk hydrangeas, mistletoe and dried limes. Garland, from £34.95, Sarah Norton Interiors

Get Sarah's look

Give a country kitchen-diner some festive touches, inspired by the woods in winter

FOR WHERE TO BUY ITEMS SHOWN, TURN TO OUR SHOPPING DIRECTORY

KITCHEN-DINER



Greenery and a pale blue table setting keep the look fresh



ASK SARAH

■ WHAT DO YOU LOVE MOST ABOUT YOUR HOME?

'The view of the garden from the house, especially from the living room – even in winter, it's really beautiful.'

■ WHAT'S YOUR FAVOURITE HOME BUY AND WHY?

'The ottoman in the living room, because it's practical and beautiful. So many friends asked me to get one for them that I ended up selling them.'

■ WHAT'S YOUR FAVOURITE INTERIORS SHOP?

'The place I return to again and again, online and physically, is Baileys in Herefordshire. It sells vintage, country-style pieces and I love the way that the shop is laid out in different rooms.'

FEATURE LISA FAZZANI PHOTOGRAPHS COLIN POOLE



£115

Country cream

Create a relaxed vibe with these painted rush-seat dining chairs
Rush seat chairs, Wiltshire range, The Cotswold Company



£456

Elegant curves

Hang this over a table to give the dining area a focal point
Tulip pendant light in old ivory, Jim Lawrence

Cracking company

Add some snap and sparkle at Christmas lunch
Luxury silver crackers, Sainsbury's

£10 for six



£13 for four

Animal magic

Have a white Christmas whatever the weather
Winter Woodland napkins, Sophie Allport



£19

Faux fir

Drape a garland along a banister or mantelpiece
Christmas garland with cones and berries (L180cm), Very

£799

Extra sittings

This sturdy pine table extends to seat eight
Halo Harvard extending French pastry table (H76.5cm x W90cm x L198cm), John Lewis

new



Unilever



ALL THE FRESHNESS YOU COULD WISH FOR

request your free sample at www.comfortintense.com

‘We had to update it inside and out’

Tackling a big renovation? Take some tips from the Eleys, who turned a dark, dated house into a lovely, bright home

FOR WHERE TO BUY ITEMS SHOWN, TURN TO OUR SHOPPING DIRECTORY



Get the
LOOK
PAGE 68

1 Living room

Clean white walls and floorboards, and furniture in pale tones give this room a light and airy feel. The coffee table is made from an old pallet

For similar pallets, try the very heavy duty pallets, from £4.50 each, PH Pallets. Elliott Grande sofa, £869, Made.com

BE
CANDLE
SAFE

The big CHANGE

REPLUMBING, REWIRING,
AND DECORATING
THROUGHOUT THE HOUSE,
USING NEUTRAL TONES
TO CREATE A FRESH
BACKDROP





2 Kitchen-diner
Painting the beams and floor white has made the room seem bigger, while white tiles with grey grout add an industrial touch. Metro white tiles, £19.50 per sq m, Topps Tiles. For similar chairs, try the Xavier P, £79.99 each, Lakeland Furniture.

Take the 60-SECOND TOUR

BOUGHT FOR	SPENT	NOW WORTH
£380,000	£21,500	£620,000



THE PROPERTY

A detached, three-bedroom, 1800s weatherboard house in Rye, East Sussex, bought in 2012.

WHO LIVES HERE

Sue and Jonathan Eley, with their children, Sam, 13, and Hope, 18. Sue is a researcher and Jonathan is a recruitment consultant.

WHAT IT COST

Roof and exterior.....	£11,000
Kitchen.....	£5,000
Bath and shower fittings.....	£250
Flooring.....	£2,000
Decorating.....	£250
Furniture and fittings.....	£3,000
TOTAL.....	£21,500

THE LOOK

Pared-back coastal, with industrial-style accessories.

LESSONS LEARNED

“Shopping around online saved us paying silly prices.”

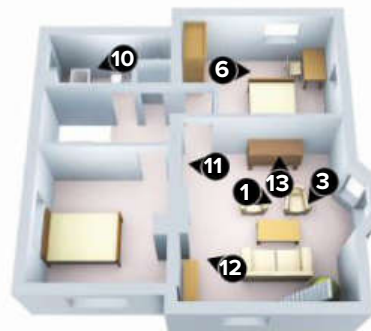
TOP FLOOR ▶

A ladder in the living room leads to a small room that was originally used as a lookout by coastguards.



◀ FIRST FLOOR

There's a living room, two bedrooms and a bathroom on this floor.



GROUND FLOOR ▶

The kitchen-diner leads through to a bedroom. Off the hallway, there's a downstairs loo and a den, which opens onto a conservatory.





‘We painted every surface white to help reflect as much light as possible’

Sue and Jonathan Eley hadn't planned on buying a second home, but when Jonathan was browsing through the Sunday property supplements one day in 2012, he spotted an unusual house and showed it to his wife. 'Let's buy it,' she said jokingly. They were intrigued and not long after, on a dark winter's day, they drove down to Rye Harbour in East Sussex to take a look at it.

Steeped in history, the Watch House on the River Rother overlooks a salt marsh and nature reserve. It was built in around 1835 by The Admiralty as a customs house to collect tax from ships entering the port of Rye, and as a lookout for coastguards spotting smugglers.

The couple loved it instantly. 'We were like kids at Christmas,' says Jonathan. 'I suppose maybe subconsciously we were looking for

a holiday home, even though we weren't registered with any agents. It was a bit of a stretch, but we decided to put in an offer and, if it wasn't accepted, just say, "Oh well, it wasn't meant to be".' To the couple's delight, the vendor agreed and by March they were the owners of a 200-year-old Grade-II-listed property in need of considerable upgrading.

They started with the exterior and, with Jonathan acting as project manager, working closely with the planning officer and local craftsmen, they modified the chimney stack, repaired the flues, restored the brickwork and replaced the roof. The house also needed a new boiler and new plumbing, drains and electrics. 'We had to repair all the things you don't see that cost a lot of money,' says Jonathan.

The kitchen was rustic in style, with red terracotta floor tiles, low ceilings and black ➔

3 Living room

A pallet coffee table and a barn star give the room rustic style, while floor cushions make great extra seats for guests

For a similar high-pile rug, try the Vitten, from £80, Ikea. For similar lanterns, try the classic rectangular, from £30 each, John Lewis

4 Kitchen

The unusual tap was Sue's idea – she asked a handyman to make one out of copper tubes

For a similar tap, try the Monarch slim copper, £219, Alveus range, Olif



3 of the best RUSTIC BUYS

£28

From the farm
Add relaxed character
with a barn star

Small Amish barn star,
Lovestruck Interiors



£15

First Noel
Stand this on
the mantel for
a festive touch
Noel sign, BHS



£16.95
each

Go Dutch
Pop a nightlight
inside these
tall houses
Amsterdam
House tealight
holders,
Dotcomgiftshop



5 Kitchen-diner A retro-style rocking chair contrasts with school stools salvaged from a junk shop

For a similar chair, try the
Eames-style RAR rocking
chair, £59, Vita Interiors





beams that made the room rather dark – it was desperately in need of a brighter look. Local carpenter and builder Paul Haver fitted kitchen units with oak worktops and laid new floorboards. The couple kept a range cooker, but removed a large black cooker hood. Some outdated mosaic splashbacks were replaced with simple, white, metro-style tiles. ‘We painted every surface white to help reflect as much light as possible,’ says Sue.

A new wooden floor in the kitchen was extended into the ground-floor bedroom, and the shower room on the ground floor was remodelled by moving a wall, turning it into a small cloakroom. This helped enlarge the hallway at the bottom of the stairs, freeing up space for a large antique linen press.

Upstairs, in the living room, the couple removed pine tongue-and-groove panelling

and a reproduction Victorian mantelpiece. Laminate flooring was ripped up to reveal original boards, and the whole room was then painted white. The bathroom was also revamped – the Eleys brought in Tollets, their local builders, for the work, and the walls were panelled with salvaged floorboards and cladding to cover up ugly pipework.

As the house took shape, Sue and Jonathan began looking for furniture. ‘We had a good idea of what we wanted,’ says Sue. ‘The furniture here is nothing like our furniture at the house in London, which is quite colourful.’

They bought some new pieces, as well as some eBay buys and some from local antiques and junk shops. Jonathan made a few inventive items of furniture that cost next to nothing, such as the platform for their bed and the coffee table in the living room, which he ➔

6 *Hope's bedroom*

A patterned bedspread adds a welcoming feel

For a similar quilt, try the Viana, from £45, Urbanara. For a similar stool cover, try the sheepskin rug, from £34.99, Dunelm

7 *Staircase*

The stencilled numbers on the stairs were inspired by the registration codes on the fishing boats in Rye harbour

For a similar stencil, try the Numbers A4, £10.95, Dovetails Vintage



8 Hallway

A traditional storage bench at the entrance hides clutter, while fairy lights add colour. For a similar bench, try the large Scandinavian hallway bench, £1,053, Hicks & Hicks. Pink Inspire 20 LED string lights, £12.99, Argos.

‘We had to repair all the things you don’t see that cost a lot of money’





9 Bedroom

Industrial-style lamps and old apple crates tie in with the eclectic look throughout the house

Apple crate, from £5, Vintage Apple Crates.
Cow skin rug, £265, Graham and Green




10 Bathroom

A space-saving slipper bath sits neatly along the width of this small room

For a similar bath, try the Winchester slipper bath, £279, Victoriaplum.com

built using old timber pallets. 'They cost just a fiver each from a building site,' he says. 'I painted them white to match the décor, then added metal castors to the base.'

The couple still have more plans for the house. A modern conservatory at the side of the property is going to be replaced, but Listed Planning Consent will be needed. Sue is more than halfway through an ambitious redesign of the garden – so far she has turned an old pond into a seating area. On starry nights, the family likes to wrap up in blankets and gather round the fire pit to star gaze and take in the sea air.

The Eleys love coming to their peaceful and quiet seaside haven, and at Christmas the atmosphere here is very traditional. 'I am just a big kid at heart and I love Christmas,' says Jonathan. 'I like to wow Sue and the kids – I come down on my own and put up the tree and all the decorations before they get here. Then we do the big Christmas dinner with a turkey bought from a local farm and we have friends to stay. Spending Christmas together is important to us, wherever we are.' 

11 *By the sea*

An old life belt propped against a wall is a nautical-style feature
For a similar life ring, try the Solas 4.3kg, £64, Seamark Nunn



12 *Living room*

Logs for the fire are stored under a rustic-style bench
For a similar bench, try the Mango, £275, French Connection



DON'T MISS
the details

Maritime accessories
and rustic surfaces create
a laid-back, coastal-
inspired theme

13 *Sideboard*

Distressed-effect storage gives a nod to weatherbeaten wood
For a similar globe, try the Bradley blue desktop, £79.95, Justglobes.co.uk



14 *Hallway*

Glass and rope details add to the seaside look
Sailing print (unframed), from £14.95, King & McGaw. For a similar lamp, try the Batela, £61.99, Wayfair





Get Sue's look

Retro touches bring a funky edge to this country living room

FOR WHERE TO BUY ITEMS SHOWN, TURN TO OUR SHOPPING DIRECTORY

IDEAL

Café chic

Add some steel

Tolix repro chair in white, Industrial Vintage range, The Orchard Home and Gifts

£50

In the details

Choose industrial-look lighting with a striped cord and a powder-coated finish

Ranarp floor lamp in off-white, Ikea

£146

Bench mark

Fit extra people round the table

Painted cross leg dining bench (H46cm x W175cm x D34cm), Oxford range, The Cotswold Company

£199

Woodland charm

Dot these lanterns around the room for a magical effect

Small bark tealight holder, House of Fraser

£32.95

£12

Accent stripe

For a low-key festive feel, add a dash of red

Red stripe linen cushion, Coastal Home

Classic choice

Go for an elegant sofa shape

Snowdrop three-seater in Herringbone house linen cotton (H86cm x W215cm x D63cm), Sofa.com

£1,240

GREAT DEAL

Vintage vibe

A cream finish softens the look of this metal chair

Urban Bistro chair in cream, Dunelm

£14.99

Flexible friend

Pick a floor lamp with a bendy neck for adjustability

Dent desk style floor lamp in cream, ColourMatch range, Argos

£39.99

Top trestle

Introduce a rustic touch

Table in white and bleached pine (H45cm x W110cm x D60cm), Portobello range, Tesco Direct

£99

Seeing stars

Bring the outdoors in with a star buy in silver birch

Bark lantern with star cutout, Dobbies

£7.99

French linen

Faded printing gives a naturally aged effect

Le Jardin Botanique cushion, Dotcomgiftshop

£12.95

£699

Stay neutral

An easy-to-live-with design that will work in any setting

Orson three-seater in Biscuit Beige (H80cm x W200cm x D98cm), Made.com

What you
smell.

What your
guests smell.



Have you gone noseblind?

Febreze truly eliminates odours and leaves a light Christmas scent.



Breathe Happy

‘We’ve created a blissful sanctuary’

Follow the Wilsons’ lead and set key statement pieces against a neutral background for quiet glamour

FOR WHERE TO BUY ITEMS SHOWN, TURN TO OUR SHOPPING DIRECTORY

The big **CHANGE**

ADDING UNDERSTATED
LUXURY TO A MODERN
TOWN HOUSE USING
TEXTURE, PATTERN AND
A MUTED COLOUR
PALETTE

BE
CANDLE
SAFE



Get the
LOOK
PAGE 80

1 Living room

Textured details and modern accessories add subtle luxury to the elegant scheme

Kasha corner sofa, £2,300, Habitat. For a similar table lamp, try the grey hare lamp, £85, Abigail Ahern range, Debenhams



‘Everything in our home has a subtle, muted finish that we can live up at Christmas’

2 Dining room

Hanging stars and crystals add a festive feel. For a similar paint, try the Pelt Estate Emulsion, £38 for 2.5ltr, Farrow & Ball. For a similar dining table and chairs, try the Oregon table with four Boise chairs, £750, Sterling Furniture.

Take the 60-SECOND TOUR

BOUGHT FOR
£435,000

SPENT
£15,000

NOW WORTH
£495,000

THE PROPERTY

A four-bedroom town house in Edinburgh, built in 2008. The owners bought it in May 2012.

WHAT IT COST

Decorating.....£3,500
Furniture.....£6,000
Carpets.....£4,000
Furnishings and accessories.....£1,500
TOTAL.....£15,000

WHO LIVES HERE

Jennifer Wilson and her husband James. Jennifer owns an online homeware boutique and James works in advertising.

THE LOOK

Smart, yet simple, with luxurious finishes and unique wallpapers for understated elegance.



LESSONS LEARNED

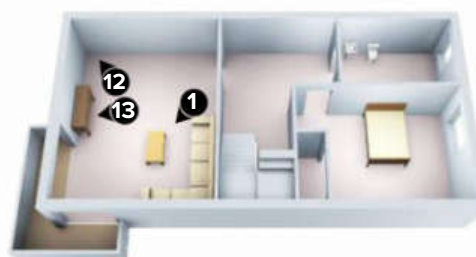
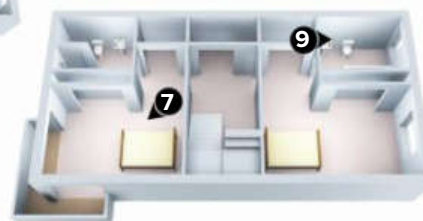
“The pale tiled flooring downstairs marks so easily. I’d choose something more forgiving next time.”



◀ THIRD FLOOR

The main bedroom with en-suite bathroom and a roof terrace are on this floor

SECOND FLOOR ▶
There are two guest bedrooms, both with en suites



◀ FIRST FLOOR

The living room is to the left of the stairs and Jennifer’s office and a bathroom are on the right

GROUND FLOOR ▶

There’s a dining room at the front of the house and a kitchen-diner and a garden room at the back





When Jennifer and James Wilson decided to view a three-storey town house in a new development near their home in Edinburgh,

it was purely on a whim. 'We were living in a large Georgian apartment at the time, which we loved, but the minute we saw this development, we fell for it,' says Jennifer. 'Our apartment needed crucial repairs and we knew we'd have to undertake the works or move, so we decided it was time to take the plunge.' However, the couple didn't want to buy the house they'd viewed. Instead, they wanted one of the four-storey properties, which came with a roof terrace, but none of those were for sale.

Undeterred, Jennifer wrote to the owners of all the four-storey houses with a proposition to buy, and was thrilled when three of them

responded positively. 'It just shows that it's a very worthwhile exercise if you want a specific property in a particular street,' she says.

The house Jennifer and James finally chose was an end-of-terrace one, which had been extended by the previous owners to create a garden room, and with its additional windows in the rear wall, was by far the lightest and most spacious of the three houses.

It was a blank canvas of magnolia walls and cream carpets as the previous owners, who had visited only at weekends, had never had the chance to put their own stamp on the house. Jennifer and James set about doing this as soon as they moved in. 'We know what we want when it comes to interiors and would never live in a house for a year or so before decorating,' says Jennifer. 'We got going immediately.'

Consequently, the look was pulled together swiftly, with the couple speedily injecting ➔

3 Kitchen

The high-gloss taupe units suit the couple's understated look perfectly. They have teamed them with soft grey furniture

For a similar kitchen, try the Raffello in cream, from £62 for a W600mm door, B&Q. For similar bar stools, try the Cornell, £79.99 each, Atlantic Shopping

‘We wanted to create a soothing refuge, hence the exotic Zen touches’



4 Garden room

‘It’s so cheerful in here, even on a gloomy day,’ says Jennifer. The small sofa and chairs are ideal for the space and create a comfortable place to relax

Limoges two seater sofa, £799; for similar armchairs, try the Cross base, £399 each; all Dwell. Penguin cushions, £32 each, Skandivis

5 Kitchen

Pale ceramic floor tiles complement the units and create a fresh, light feel. The look is sleek and uncluttered thanks to ample storage space

For similar floor tiles, try the Umbria, £10 per sq m, B&Q. Bubbly Belles oven glove, £18, Urban Cuckoo





‘Textured, rough-luxe wallpapers are a great way to add interest’

6 Hallway
Eye-catching accessories and a quirky brick-effect wallpaper make a feature of the hallway

For similar wallpaper, try the Muriva, £14.99 per roll, Gowallpaper. Newton sideboard, £599, Dwell. Wooden stag head, £28, Urban Cuckoo

style and character into the house with chic decorative choices. ‘We relied on texture and pattern, rather than colour, to shape the look,’ says Jennifer. ‘I love monochrome finishes and find details, such as textured, rough-luxe wallpapers, are a great way to add interest.’

There’s a subtle East-meets-West theme throughout the house, too – a result of Jennifer and James’s love of travel. ‘We wanted to create a soothing refuge, hence the exotic Zen touches that bring a sense of serenity,’ says Jennifer.

As with many contemporary builds, the living room is on the first floor. It’s a peaceful sanctuary, decorated in pale tones and sensual fabrics. ‘We retreat here to relax in the evenings and watch TV,’ says Jennifer.

The ground floor houses a guest bedroom and the kitchen, plus a dining room that has

dark purple walls with shimmering silver-grey carpet, and has curtains and blinds in a deep shade of aubergine. Upstairs, there are two bedrooms with en-suite bathrooms and a balcony, and the top floor comprises the main bedroom and en suite, and the roof terrace.

The couple particularly enjoy their home’s hassle-free outdoor spaces. Two south-facing balconies, a roof terrace and a patio are all low maintenance and provide lovely views of Edinburgh. ‘With little need to do any actual gardening, they’re ideal for me,’ says Jennifer. ‘We’ve got some topiary on the roof terrace and a few palms in planters, but that’s the extent of our gardening expertise.’

The couple have appreciated being able to create a new home without messy and time-consuming structural work. ‘It’s all ➡





3 of the best SILVER DECORATIONS



£10

Twinkle twinkle
Pop a tealight inside
and watch it sparkle
Mercury jam jar tealight
holder, The White Company



£22

Let it snow
Shake it up to make
a snowy scene
Silver reindeer snow
globe, Debenhams



From
£4 each

Winter wonderland
Hang these on the tree
for added glamour
Glass Christmas tree hanging
decorations, George

7 Guest bedroom A soothing palette of soft mauves and luxurious bed linen make this a sumptuous room for overnight guests

For similar wallpaper, try
the Button Back, £70 per
roll, Rockett St George.
For a similar quilt, try the
geometric pattern, from
£99.99, Zara Home

8 *Main bedroom*

Textured wallpaper and lustrous surfaces add personality to the room

For similar wallpaper, try the textured vinyl, £8 per roll, Wilko. Bourgie lamps, £211 each, Kartell range, Nest.co.uk. For a similar side table, try the metal, £295, Graham and Green



‘We relied on texture and pattern, rather than colour, to shape the overall look’

been so simple, and the fact that there was no building work to do enabled us to focus on the finishing touches, which is the fun part,’ says Jennifer. ‘We could concentrate on things like the quality of the finishes, the solid hardwood doors, the bathrooms and the fitted cupboards, all of which are beautifully made. It has been a pleasure to personalise the house.’

Jennifer’s online business Urban Cuckoo (urbancuckoo.co.uk) specialises in the quirky, contemporary style that she and James love. At Christmas they have their pick of seasonal decorations, which look great against the luxurious wallpapers and carefully selected fabrics in the house. ‘Everything in our home has a subtle, muted finish that we can live up at Christmas with frosted, glittery decorations for festive sparkle,’ says Jennifer.

Christmas Day is busy in the Wilson house, with visits from both sides of their extended family, lots of seasonal good cheer and piles of presents to unwrap. ‘We have everyone around for a party on the day,’ says Jennifer. ‘We do get a bit carried away, but it’s nice to celebrate.’

9 *Bathroom*

Jennifer and James went for sleek, contemporary sanitaryware to create a calming, spa-like feel

For similar floor tiles, try the Philana (600mm x 300mm), £53.99 for six, Homebase





10 Hallway
An elegant glass tree light looks chic and contemporary. For a similar clear tree, try the glass jar, £40, Cox & Cox



11 Dining table
A trio of pretty tealight holders add a warm evening glow. For similar tealight holders, try the rustic heart, £6.95 each, Tesco Direct

DON'T MISS
the details

Opt for neutral decorations in metal, wood and glass to add a stylish festive feel to your home



12 Clear sign
Glass accessories reflect light around the room and add seasonal sparkle. For similar candlesticks, try the tall chunky glass, £22.50 each, Greige



13 Sideboard
Sweet little houses and hessian sacks give a homespun feel. Dutch houses, £12 for three, George. Santa sacks, from £8 each, Urban Cuckoo



Get Jennifer's look

Mix neutrals with glass and metallics for a cool, calm scheme

FOR WHERE TO BUY ITEMS SHOWN, TURN TO OUR SHOPPING DIRECTORY

IDEAL



£55

Little grey rabbit

Pretty up a plain sofa
Rabbit and polka dot cushion in Ivory linen, Urban Cuckoo

Tiers of joy

Create an ambient glow with this china-shell light

Pembridge pendant (diameter 34cm), Original BTC



£789



£10.50
for three

Retro glow

Add sparkle with vintage-look glass
Mercury trio candle votives, Within



£43
per roll

Deco detail

Introduce gorgeous understated glamour into a plain scheme
Deco wallpaper in Concrete and Silver, Arkona collection, Harlequin



Well cornered

Zone your living space and create a relaxed area for chilling out
Kasha right-arm corner sofa in grey fabric (H67cm x W279cm x D208cm), Habitat

£1,700



£399

Space saver

Choose a flexible arrangement

Jacque extending clear glass coffee table (H42cm x W80 120cm x D80cm), Dwell

GREAT DEAL

New leaf
Add texture and sculptural detail
Silvia shade in white (diameter 45cm), Vita Lighting range, Amara



£55



£19

Bunny beauty

Go soft with a square watercolour-print cushion
Watercolour Bunny cushion in Duck Egg, M&Co



£28
per roll

Subtle shift

Opt for fluid pattern on a feature wall in soft taupe and grey
Frequency wallpaper in grey, Albany Symmetry collection, Wallpaperdirect



£1
each

Little gems

These frosted glass votives come with added bling
Diamanté tealights, Poundland



Right angle

Combine several sections into an L, or use them separately to suit your space
Söderhamn corner sofa in Teno light grey (H83cm x W198cm x D291cm), Ikea

£1,335

Clear score

Add a sleek, modern touch

Hygena Matrix coffee table in clear glass (H45cm x W100cm x D50cm), Argos

£49.99





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De'Longhi

Better Everyday



'I used the colours of nature'

Look to your home's façade and surroundings for decorating inspiration, like Lesley and Fredrik Pennington did

FOR WHERE TO BUY ITEMS SHOWN, TURN TO OUR SHOPPING DIRECTORY

The big **CHANGE**

FURNISHING A RESTORED
TWENTIES HOUSE IN
SWEDEN TO CREATE A
LIGHT AND INVITING
FAMILY HOME





BE
CANDLE
SAFE

1 Living room

A fresh white palette makes the most of the natural light. The red accents were inspired by the property's roof tiles

For a similar artwork, try the 12067686A, from £48.99, Art.co.uk. Arco lamp, £1,463, Flos range, Heal's. Falkland pendant, £171, Made in Design

Take the **60-SECOND TOUR**

BOUGHT FOR	SPENT	NOW WORTH
£825,000	£15,000	£975,000

THE PROPERTY

A four-bedroom, detached house, built in 1926, in a seaside suburb of Stockholm, Sweden. The owners bought it in October 2012.

WHO LIVES HERE

Lesley Pennington and her husband Fredrik, with Fredrik's twin sons, Björn and Emil, 21, and the couple's daughter, Zoe, 13. Lesley is the founder and chief executive officer of a textiles company, and Fredrik works in marketing.

THE LOOK

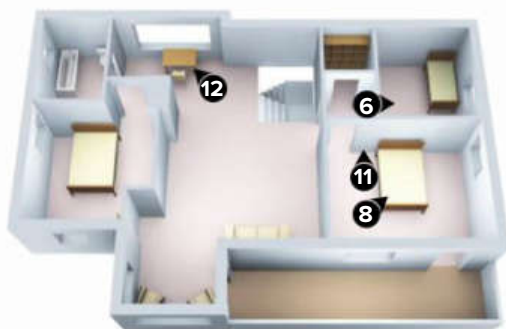
Stylish Scandi comfort, with a mixture of antiques and mid-century classics, set against bleached timber floors, rustic wood cladding and a white-and-pale-grey scheme.



LESSONS LEARNED

“Pick out a limited palette of colours and use repeatedly. In our house, the strongest threads are red and green.”

‘I wanted to bring the colours of nature and of the building inside the house, which is why there are threads of red and green in every room’



◀ **FIRST FLOOR**
Stairs lead up to a family room, the main bedroom and a bathroom. There are also two more bedrooms and a storage room

GROUND FLOOR ▶
A large open-plan kitchen-diner and living room takes up more than half of the ground floor. Down the hall, there's a guest room and a bathroom





2 Dining room

Lesley wanted a round table to encourage conversation among her family, and chose a new white laminate version of a Sixties design Super-Elliptical table, from £1,650, Fritz Hansen range, Aram, Eames DSR chairs, £225 each, Vitra range, John Lewis. Soomkai 60 pendant, £104, Watt&Veke



3 of the best FESTIVE SCANDI BUYS

Super stars

Create a garland with these purse-friendly decs

Large paper stars,
Poundland

£1
for two



House warmer

Pop a tealight inside for a cosy Christmas glow

Red house lantern (H25cm),
The Contemporary Home

£12



Red-nosed reindeer

Stand this cheery chap on a shelf or mantel

Large reindeer (H56cm), The Scandinavian Shop

£9.95



At Christmas time, Lesley Pennington's home glows with a welcoming spirit. Lesley is a Canadian who, 20 years ago, moved from the United States to be with her Swedish husband Fredrik, and she loves the Scandinavian way of doing things. 'On Christmas Eve, my family comes over for a traditional Swedish smörgåsbord of herring, meatballs and salads, and to open presents,' says Lesley. 'Later on in the holiday, I'll cook up a Canadian feast - turkey, stuffing, mash - which my two stepsons, Björn and Emil, and our daughter, Zoe, enjoy just as much.

'Sweden is very dark in the winter, especially in November and December, so Christmas is

something you can focus on,' says Lesley. 'Swedes celebrate for the whole month of December - it could be eating gingerbread cookies with friends, baking cakes at the weekends or lighting Advent candles. It takes the attention away from the darkness.'

Lesley trained as a graphic designer, but 10 years ago she channelled her love of interiors into home textiles. She founded Bemz (bemz.com/en-gb), an online store that supplies loose covers for Ikea sofas to customers around the world. After two decades immersed in the simplicity of Swedish home style, and with her evident love of beautiful design, it's no surprise that her home is so easy on the eye. 'I have a very personal approach to décor - I like to mix up antiques with mid-century pieces and →

3 Kitchen

The previous owners painted the kitchen's wooden cabinets pale grey to add a sense of Swedish country style

For similar units, try the Metod/Förvara, from £64 for a W600mm unit, Ikea

4 Living room

Lesley bought the leather chair for £200 from online auction house and emporium Bukowski Auktionser

For a similar chair, try the Knoll Studio lounge chair, £615, K2 Space



‘I wanted to do something creative and personal, and to create a cocoon for my family’

'I love using interesting textiles – redecorating with cushions, curtains, rugs and throws is a great way to change things without having to invest in new furniture'



modern Scandinavian design,' she says. 'I love using interesting textiles, too – redecorating with cushions, curtains, rugs and throws is a great way to change things without having to invest in new furniture.'

For Lesley and Fredrik, coming across their detached, early 20th-century house in the paper one Saturday three years ago was a lucky find. 'We'd been looking to move for a while,' explains Lesley. 'Our children were growing up and we needed a different kind of home to accommodate our family. As I flicked through the property pages, I spotted this 1926 house in a seaside suburb of Stockholm, a 20-minute train journey from the city. It wasn't an area that we'd been considering, but I liked the look of it immediately and went to view it that day.'

When she arrived, the house was crowded with other eager homebuyers. The appeal was

clear – the owners had restored their home to a very high standard and little needed doing, not even painting. Moving in would simply be a matter of furnishing the rooms. 'They had paid a lot of attention to the period details, such as the bleached pinewood floors and the rustic wood cladding on the walls,' says Lesley. 'The house had been loved and cared for, it wasn't sterile, and I put in an offer there and then.'

The family moved into their new home three months later, in December 2012, and over the next year, Lesley created a look that is elegant, yet homely. 'I wanted to do something as creative and personal as the previous owners had, to create a cocoon for my family,' she says. She took her furnishing inspiration from the exterior of the house and its seaside surroundings – the red tiles of the roof, the grey of the wood cladding, the green of the trees, ➔

5 Guest bedroom
Large windows allow lots of daylight into the first-floor guest bedroom. Checked fabrics and red accents make it homely. Ektorp Jennylund armchair, from £130, Ikea; covered in Loose Fit Country cover in Absolute White pure washed linen, £239, Bemz



6 *Zoe's bedroom*

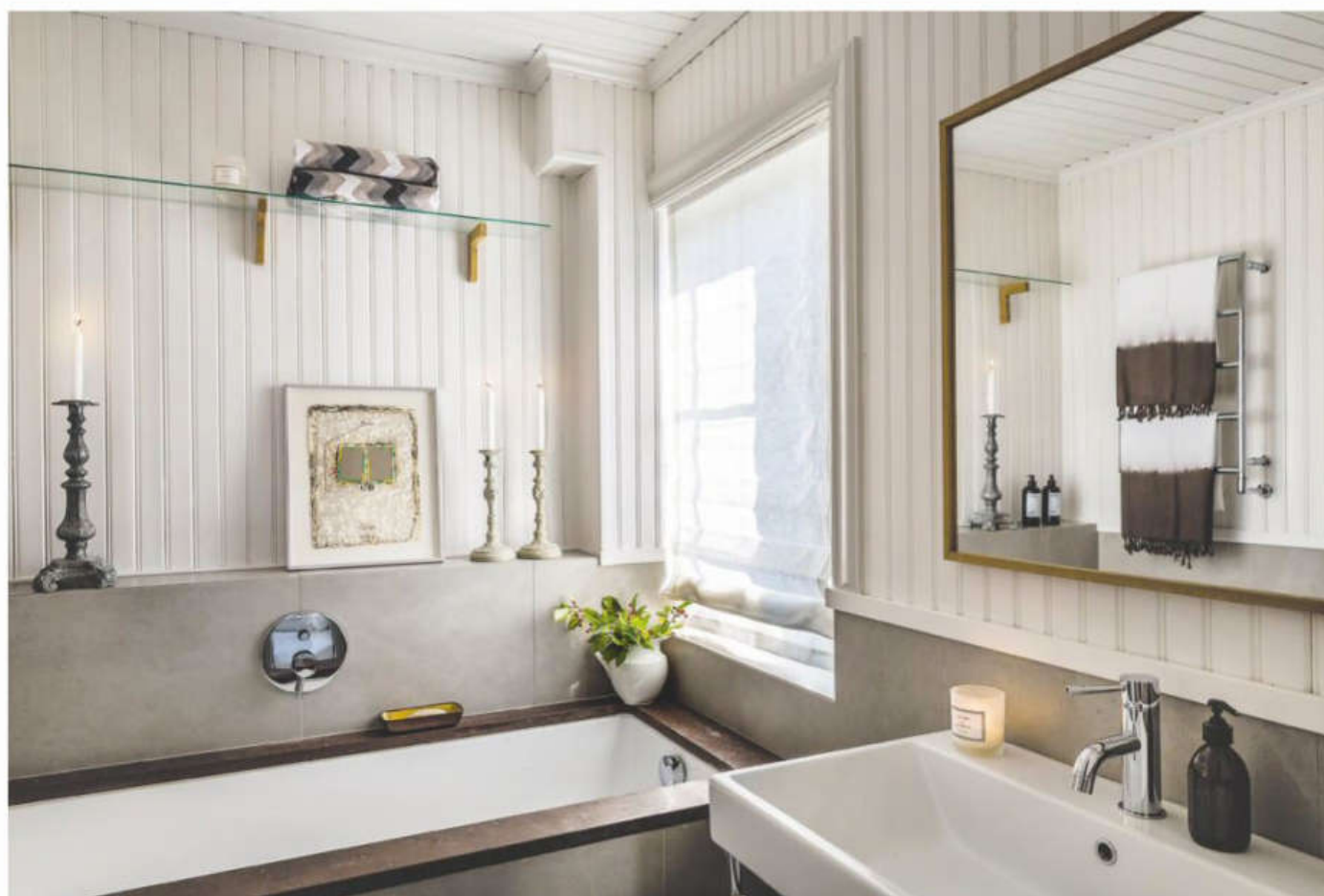
A vintage bedspread found at a flea market gives this room a homespun look, while colourful accessories add a fun feel

For a similar throw, try the Snowflake, £69, John Lewis

7 *Bathroom*

The wood-panelled bathroom on the first floor is tiled in varieties of local stone quarried on the island of Gotland

For a similar tiles, try the Belgravia Traverine Field, £23 per sq m, Bathstore





Get the
LOOK
PAGE 92

8 **Main bedroom**

The white backdrop is spiced up with textiles in soft shades of orange

Ektorp cushion cover in Orange Kvarter, £29; curtains in Mandarin Orange/Soft White Gotland Stripe, from £95 per pair; all Bemz. Tango throw, £58, Scandinavian Design Center

9 **Terrace**


A reindeer hide sits on the back of one of the wicker chairs that Lesley and Fredrik bought with the house, while tealights add to the festive feel

For similar chairs, try the Marlow dining armchairs, £333 each, Bridgman

‘I have a very personal approach to décor – I like to mix up antiques with mid-century pieces’

and the blue-grey of the rocky shoreline and the sea beyond. ‘I wanted to bring the colours of nature and of the building inside the house, which is why there are threads of red and green in every room,’ she says.

Lesley and Fredrik brought a few items from their previous home – their favourite Arco floor lamp for the living room, a couple of large paintings and various Eames chairs – but Lesley sought out new things, too. ‘I didn’t want to force our old furniture into the new house, so I recycled quite a lot of it via the website blocket.se, and found new things to buy from there and other websites, such as the online auction house Bukowski Auktioner,’ she says.

The couple’s favourite room is the cosy snug on the first floor, which has lovely views into the tree canopy and to the sea beyond. It also has an outdoor terrace, for enjoying the long summer nights. ‘This is where we relax as a family, read books, watch TV and chat,’ says Lesley. Everyday affordable designs, such as an Ikea sofa, are mixed with more special pieces, such as a pair of original Bruno Mathsson T102 chairs from the Thirties. ‘Beautiful design makes me happy,’ says Lesley – spoken like a true Scandinavian. 



10 Dining room

A festive candelabra in bold red provides a striking focal point
For a similar candelabra, try the Nordic light, from £64.90, Houseology



11 Main bedroom

A textured-effect wallpaper adds a bit of rustic texture
For a similar wallpaper, try the Peeling Planks Wild Garden, £47 per roll, Clarke & Clarke range, Wallpaperdirect

DON'T MISS
the details

Bold designs, quirky buys and accents of rich red and orange create a warm atmosphere

12 Family room

A desk beneath the window provides a view of the treetops
For a similar chair, try the RAR rocker in orange, £356, Voga



13 Dining room

Contemporary tableware is teamed with cutlery inherited from Fredrik's family
Oiva Siirtolapuutarha dinner plate, £26, Marimekko range, Twentytwentyone

Get Lesley's look

Create a rustic, Scandi-style retreat in bleached white with warm orange and red accents

FOR WHERE TO BUY ITEMS SHOWN, TURN TO OUR SHOPPING DIRECTORY

BEDROOM



Wake up a white bedroom with take-notice tones

Retro rocker

Add a statement piece to a country scheme
Charles Eames style RAR rocking chair in white, Vita Interiors

£59

£19

Tangerine dream

Perk it up with a bold stripe
Gotland Stripe cushion cover in Mandarin Orange/Soft White (50cm sq), Bemz

£165

Wire works

Partner a steel cage lamp base with a simple fabric shade
Shilling lamp with shade, Loaf

Vibrant red

Warm an all-white scheme
Burdock double bedstead in Crimson (H111cm x W137cm x L201cm), Button & Sprung

£545

Heart warmer

Fall for this hand-carved vintage-look candlestick
Wood heart dinner candlestick, Retreat Home

£14.99



ASK LESLEY

■ WHAT DO YOU LOVE MOST ABOUT YOUR HOME?

'Sunshine streams through the windows from morning until evening.'

■ DESCRIBE YOUR STYLE IN FIVE WORDS

'Eclectic, celebrating beautiful textiles and design.'

■ WHAT'S YOUR FAVOURITE ONLINE INTERIORS SHOP?

'Bukowskis Market (bukowskismarket.com/en). I love antiques, and it has things from the 19th and 20th centuries right up to the present day.'

■ WHAT'S YOUR DECORATING SECRET?

'Decide on your colour palette, then play with it. Three to five colours are enough to hold a room together visually.'

■ WHAT INSPIRED YOUR STYLE? 'The red of the roof, white of the timber cladding, green of the trees and grey-blue of the sea.'

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If you love the stylish schemes in Ideal Home, but aren't sure how to transform your own rooms, *we're here to help*. All great looks start with inspiring images, so *indulge in a research session* with our decorating section, then *build a moodboard* for your project.

To see our moodboards and *for more inspiration*, turn the page...



Relaxed feel
Add red accents
to create a cosy
scheme, page 114



Festive charm
Mix soft gold with
greenery for subtle
elegance, page 101



Neutral chic
Re-create this
boutique-hotel
look, page 120



Pretty patterns
Discover new fabric
and wallpaper
designs, page 110

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Be inspired by our MOODBOARDS

We use expert interior-design techniques to create our decorating looks. Each starts with a moodboard, like the ones here. Use one of these as a starting point for a stylish new scheme

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MISTLETOE & TWINE

Give traditional materials a refined update

Osamu Hazlenut **fabric** (background), £54 per m, Harlequin. IM1849 **flooring**, £19.99 per sq m, Quick Step. **Tree decorations**, both from a selection, Gisela Graham. **Star wreath**, £4.99, Dobbies Garden Centres. 2088/33 **fabric**, £60 per m, Villa Nova. For a similar **saucer**, try the espresso saucer, £3, John Lewis. London Stone **Estate Emulsion**, £38 for 2.5ltr, Farrow & Ball. **Side plate**, £10; Stanton **cutlery**, £95 for a 16 piece set; all The White Company. Lucia **napkin**, £4.99, LinenMe. **Tag**, £3.50 for eight, Rastall & Daughters. **Ribbons**, from a selection, Berisfords Ribbons. **Biscuits**, £1.49 for 100g, Ocado

SEE IT IN
A ROOM...
page 102



PLAYFUL PRINTS

Layer colourful motifs for a fun effect

Sisal Fine Boucle **flooring**, from £36.50 per sq m, Kersaint Cobb & Company. G23104 **wallpaper**, £29.95 per roll, Wallpaperdirect. Elis **rug**, £220, Cox & Cox. Robots polkadot single **duvet cover** with pillowcase, £45, Cath Kidston. **Cushion** made in Woodland Rose cotton duck (front), £20 per m, Cath Kidston; Suffolk Check S Bluebell, £24.50 per m, Ian Mankin. **Giftwrap**, £1.50 per sheet; **gift tag**, 85p; both Julia Davey range, Notonthehighstreet.com. **Ribbon**, £2.70 for 3m, Jane Means. **Stocking kit**, from £9.50, LoveCrochet. **Robot**, £8, House of Fraser. **Russian doll**, £6, Marks & Spencer. Wooden **snowflake** decoration, £11.25 for three, Pipii

OLD GOLD

Enliven autumnal tones with gold accents

V3159/04 **fabric**, £54 per m, Villa Nova. Laval Walnut **fabric**, £35 per m, Clarke & Clarke. Distressed foil **cushion cover**, £25, House of Fraser. **Apple** decoration, £3.95, Norpar Barns. Ceramic **pine cones**, £6 each, Rowen & Wren. CY306 **flooring**, £64 per sq m, Crucial Trading. Mouse's Back **Estate Emulsion**, £38 for 2.5ltr, Farrow & Ball. **Tree topper**, £5, Wilko. Grosgrain **ribbon**, £1 per m, Jane Means. **Swatch** from Windsor sofa in Natural Linen, £2,195, Graham and Green. For a similar brown linen **fabric swatch**, try the Laval Walnut, as before

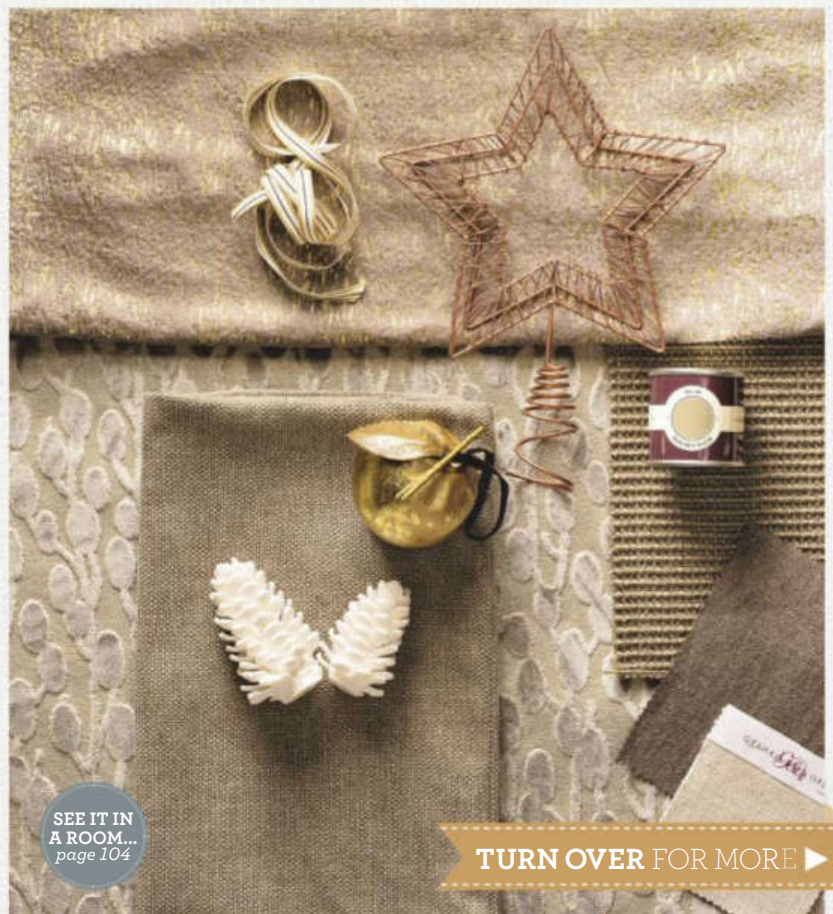
Design your own moodboard

Cheat your way to a professional finish

1 Choose your base colour Whether it's flooring or a wall, the base colour will be the largest area of colour in your room, so place a generous sample of it onto your board. Including carpet samples will help you think about texture, too.

2 Add an accent tone A dramatic contrast or an accent just a few tones away from your base colour? Use your moodboard to play with options and layer it with swatches of fabric, scraps of wallpaper and paint colour charts.

3 Find the right accessories These will really set the tone in your room – go for ones that share an accent colour and stick to a single theme. Don't mix styles, or your finished scheme will look messy rather than effortlessly eclectic.



TURN OVER FOR MORE ▶



NATURE'S GIFTS

Choose an earthy palette for a rustic feel

Stocking; sign; both £3 each, Wilko. **Doormat,** £10, Next. Aquamarine, Aquamarine Deep and Sage Green Traditional Oil Eggshell **paint swatches;** all £56 for 2.5ltr, Little Greene. **Wreath,** from £75, Gardenia of London. Window **stickers,** £5.50 for 13, Cox & Cox

SEE IT IN
A ROOM...
page 106



Team classic colours for a traditional look

Knightsbridge **carpet**, £80 per sq m, Brintons. **Cushion covers** made in Red Dachshund fabric (left), £48 per m, Emily Bond; made in Burlington Lacquer Red, £59.50 per m, Romo. Wooden **snowflake decoration**, £11.25 for three, Pipii. **Robin** decoration, £3.50, National Portrait Gallery. Kraft **gift box**, from £2.50, Paperchase. Jura tartan **ribbon**, £4.50 per 5m roll, Jane Means. Bertie on skis hanging **decoration**, £24, Plum & Ashby. Elephant Grey **matt emulsion**; Storm Grey **eggshell**; both £39 for 2.5ltr, Zoffany

Keep it simple with a touch of luxe

Accent 110924 **wallpaper**, £65 per roll; Osamu 131432 **fabric swatch**, £54 per m; both Harlequin. Pampas Nordic **flooring** in Turku, £21.99 per sq m; Kersaint Cobb & Company. For a similar silver **side plate**, try the Filigree pastry plate, £8.50, Debenhams. For a similar gold **side plate**, try the Starburst, £10; Empire **cutlery**, £140 for a 24 piece set; all House of Fraser. For similar **napkins**, try the linen, £17 each, Jigsaw range; **napkin rings**, £12 for four; Amy **frame**, £15; all John Lewis

FOLLOW THE 3 GOLDEN RULES

1 THE 70-20-10 RULE For a balanced scheme, keep 70% of the elements (say, walls and floors) as one colour, then add 20% in a second colour (fabrics) and 10% in an accent (accessories).

2 THE PATTERN RULE When mixing patterns, use large with medium or medium with small, never large with small. Pick prints that share a colour in common.

3 THE PAINTED BOX RULE

The look of paint changes according to the time of day and the light in a room. Paint the inside of a large box with a tester to create a miniature 'room' and see how the colour changes within a 3D space.

👉 **AND FINALLY...** Always add a surprise. A focal point – whether it's a feature wall or a piece of art – is the short cut to a 'wow' room.



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HOME FOR *Christmas*

Let simple country style inspire your Christmas celebrations this year: elegant decorations in gleaming gold, fresh greenery and candlelight will make your home feel calm and welcoming

FOR WHERE TO BUY ITEMS SHOWN, TURN TO PAGE 108

BE
CANDLE
SAFE

Turn your hallway from functional to festive by hanging star lanterns, grouping candlesticks and dressing it with foliage



GATHER AROUND THE TABLE

- ★ **HANG WREATHS** to create a focal point on a mirror or wall.
- ★ **DECORATE CHAIR BACKS** Tie on a bauble with ribbon and add a name label for a formal dinner.
- ★ **MAKE IT TWINKLE** Fairy lights around a mirror or window, candles arranged in clusters around the room and tree lights will set a special mood.
- ★ **USE FRESH FLOWERS** White blooms look particularly striking against winter greenery.
- ★ **ADD SIMPLE GLASS DECORATIONS** for an elegant look. Glass bonbon jars can do double duty holding baubles or sweet treats for guests.

Dress up a dining room so it's fit for feasting with shimmering linen, sparkling glasses, your best china and soft-gold decorations

Creating the right mood for a relaxing, classic Christmas can be easy if you use the right ingredients. To conjure up a festive scheme that's soothing yet still looks magical, keep brightly coloured baubles, bold wrapping paper and kitsch ornaments packed away and stick to a simpler style.

CHOOSE A COLOUR Use a couple of shades for decorations, giftwrap and ribbons. Muted and matt tones will bring a subtle elegance – try old gold with chocolate or pewter and dusky rose.

PICK SIMPLE SHAPES This isn't the look for tons of tinsel, clusters of shiny baubles or Santa pictures. Instead, include subtle country motifs, such as hearts and stars.

GO NATURAL Nothing beats the evocative smell of pine trees and eucalyptus, so make the most of nature's bounty and include a real tree, fresh foliage and mistletoe in your decorating.

THE PALETTE

Give a neutral scheme a subtle sprinkling of festive gold

CALM CLASSIC

Add some gentle shimmer
Belvedere 111247,
£48 per roll,
Harlequin

THINK GREIGE
Use warm tones
Donkey Ride
Claypaint, £35
for 2.5ltr,
Earthborn

STAR OF THE SHOW
Choose a statement design
Cassia 331946,
£98 per m, Zoffany

IDEAL HOME ♥ MOODBOARD Mistletoe & Twine



For details of this moodboard, turn to page 96



Create the perfect living room for holiday unwinding with plenty of comfy seating, surfaces close to hand for putting drinks and nibbles on, and space to unwrap presents

GET COSY AND COMFORTABLE

- ★ **GO FORMAL** Put ornaments in glass cloches for upscale style.
- ★ **DECORATE WITH LIGHT** Use battery-powered fairy lights to highlight displays around the room on tables, shelves and sills.
- ★ **BRING OUT THE BLANKETS** Pile up soft cushions and throws for snuggling up together.
- ★ **LIGHT SCENTED CANDLES** Fill the room with festive aromas.
- ★ **CUSTOMISE BASIC GARLANDS** with golden decorations for a glamorous, rustic-luxe look.



IDEAL HOME ♥ MOODBOARD
Old Gold



For details of this moodboard,
turn to page 96

HUG THEM 'HELLO' OR 'GOODBYE'

- ★ **MAKE A STATEMENT** Go big with a bespoke door wreath for a 'wow' welcome.
- ★ **TURN THE TABLES** Use a garden table to create a decorative display in a porch area.
- ★ **LINE UP LANTERNS** Create an inviting glow with candles in different-sized silver lanterns.
- ★ **KEEP IT SIMPLE** White paper decorations can look just as striking as bling baubles.



IDEAL HOME ♥ MOODBOARD

Nature's Gifts



For details of this moodboard, turn to page 96



Just a few tealights and some mistletoe can transform a sideboard or table



Placing fairy lights and candles in front of a mirror will help reflect light and create a lovely atmosphere

DON'T MISS the details

Focus on dressing key focal points beautifully, mixing glass and silver pieces, fresh foliage and fairy lights



Place a miniature gift, such as a few chocolate truffles or a pretty trinket, next to each place setting



Keep a basket of small gifts by the front door to treat any guests who have dropped in unexpectedly

Find all the details IN THESE PICTURES

FOR WHERE TO BUY ITEMS SHOWN, TURN TO OUR SHOPPING DIRECTORY



P101 HALLWAY DECORATION AND FURNITURE Walls painted in Stony Ground Estate Emulsion, £38 for 2.5ltr, Farrow & Ball. DP102 flooring, £55 per sq m; runner made in Wool Alluring Stripe Mousey/Cinnamon; border in Cotton Herringbone Down; from £121 per sq m; all Crucial Trading. Parkstead console, £859; Sash mirror, £255; both Oka. Bespoke garland (on stairs), from £150, Gardenia of London. Square pendant, from £426, Davey Lighting range, Original BTC. **ON CONSOLE** Pillar candle holders; mini Christmas trees; all £25 each; Twenty One candle, £35; Winter votive candle, £10; Hexagon tealight holder, £6; large Winter Botanical candle, £35; all The White Company. Mercury silvered tealight holder, £9.95 for three, Nordic House. Wooden calendar, £16.99; bleached willow twig wreath, £11.99; both Gisela Graham. Large Shimmer tealight holder, £5, Lombok. Candlesticks, from £12.50 each, Nordic House. Slate candle plate, £20, Croft Collection range, John Lewis. **ON SHELF** Mohair throw in Squirrel Grey, £89.95; herringbone throw in beige, £89.95; both Bronte by Moon. Jingle bell garland, £12.95, Rastall & Daughters. Decorative bowl, £25; Siri box, £175; Rattan shelf baskets, £68 each; all Lombok. Hexagon tealight holder; Mercury silvered tealight holder; both as before. Glass dome, £45, Croft Collection range, John Lewis. Brown Kraft carrier bags, £2.50 for five, Jane Means. Brown velvet ribbon, from a selection, Berisfords Ribbons. Hand-stamped gift tags, £3.50 for eight, Rastall & Daughters. **ON WALL** Frosted fir and berry garland, from £30.99, Gisela Graham. Large brass standing stars, £59.95 each, Nkuku range, Notonthehighstreet.com. Hanging tealight star lanterns, £30 each, The White Company



P104 LIVING ROOM DECORATION AND FURNITURE Wall painted in Mouse's Back Estate Emulsion, £38 for 2.5ltr, Farrow & Ball. Blind made in Laval Parchment, £35 per m, Clarke & Clarke. Curtain made in Helliar Driftwood, £54 per m, Villa Nova. CY306 flooring, £64 per sq m, Crucial Trading. Tolsey rug, £370; Olivia armchairs in Pale Oat, £1,040 each; Aldwych coffee table, from £365; all Neptune. Windsor three-seater sofa in Natural Linen, £2,195, Graham and Green. Costes ottoman, £195, Oka. BK4 bookcase, from £1,847, Scumble

Goosie. Classic Victorian fire surround, £810, Chesney's. For a similar mirror, try a selection, Pimpernel & Partners. 7.5ft Vermont White Spruce lit tree, £699, Balsam Hill. **ON SOFA** Faux-fur throw in Snow Fox, £195, Cox & Cox. Cushions, from left: Textured weave, £12, Next; Burton Natural, £25; Luce, £40; both John Lewis; Distressed foil, £25, House of Fraser. **ON/NEAR ARMCHAIR** Florence cushion, £50, Neptune. Knitted sack, £45, The White Company. **ON COFFEE TABLE** Slate candle plate, £20; glass dome, £45; hurricane lantern, £40; throw, £79; all John Lewis. Shimmer tealight holder, from £4, Lombok. Hurricane, £20, The White Company. Ceramic pine cones, £6 each, Rowen & Wren. Cake stand, £75 for a three-piece set, LSA International. Mince pies, £2 for six, Tesco. Church decoration, £2, Tesco Direct. Pine cones, from £3.50 per bag; Snowy Fir branch, £8.50; all Norpar Barns. White bowl, £45; oval platter, from £60; both Mervyn Gers range, Heal's. Jingle Bell garland,

£12.95; gift tags, £3.50 for eight; all Rastall & Daughters. Giftwrap, from a selection, Paperchase and Waitrose. Ribbons, from a selection, Jane Means. **ON TREE** Tree topper, £5, Wilko. Decorations, from a selection, Gisela Graham. **ON MANTEL** Apples and pears, £3.95 each, Norpar Barns. Frosted fir and berry garland, from £30.99, Gisela Graham. **Gia candlesticks**, from £22 each, Lombok. Winter Pillar Botanical candles, £25 each, The White Company. Brass standing star, from £29.95, Nkuku range, Notonthehighstreet.com. Shimmer tealight holder, as before. Limed wood finials, from £98 each, Rowen & Wren. **ON OTTOMAN** Sorano teacup and saucer, £12, Oka. Kraft paper, £3 per roll, Paperchase. Gift tags; ribbon; all as before. **ON BOOKCASE** For a similar branch, try the Snowy Fir, as before. Jingle Bell garland; Shimmer tealight holder; church decoration; all as before. Siri frame, £30; CD boxes, £28 each; all Lombok. Cards, from a selection, Tesco Direct



P102 DINING ROOM DECORATION AND FURNITURE Walls painted in London Stone Estate Emulsion, £38 for 2.5ltr, Farrow & Ball. Colebrooke fire surround, £930, Chesney's. IM1849 flooring, £19.99 per sq m, Quick-Step. Adya rug, £295, Lombok. Harrogate dining chairs, £215 each; six-seater dining table, £1,260; 4ft dresser, from £1,695; sideboard, £950; mirror, from £365; all Chichester range, Neptune. Curtains made in Osamu, £54 per m, Harlequin. Blind made in Laval, £35 per m, Clarke & Clarke. Ullswater 2.7m tree, £250, Dobbies Garden Centres. Heart wreaths, £13.99 each, Gisela Graham. **ON DINING TABLE** Emilia Sand tablecloth, £49.99; Rustic runner, £16.99; Lucia napkins, £4.99 each; all LinenMe. Artisan dinner plates, £12 each; side plates, £10 each; Stanton cutlery, £95 for a 16-piece set; crackers, £35 for six; hexagonal tealight holders, from £6 each; all The White Company. Tirol wine glasses, £30 for four, LSA International. Candlesticks, from £14.95 each, Nordic House. Giftwrap,

from a selection, Next and Paperchase. Gift tags, £3.50 for eight, Rastall & Daughters. Ribbon, from a selection, Berisfords Ribbons. **ON CHAIRS** Seat pads covered in 2088/33, £60 per m, Villa Nova. Ribbon, as before. Teardrops, £13.95 for four, Rastall & Daughters. **ON/NEAR MANTEL** Wreath, £56, Oka. Ribbon, as before. Jingle bell garland, £12.95, Rastall & Daughters. Merry Christmas garland, £11.99; baubles, £3.99 each; all Gisela Graham. Large glass jar, £30, Next. Tealight holders, £5 each, Lombok. Hurricane, £20, The White Company. Jars, from £9 each, Brissi. Biscuits, £1.99 for 100g, Ocado. **ON DRESSER** Baskets, £28 each, Lombok. Tea plates, £13 each, Denby. Hexagonal tealight holders, as before. Bowsley jugs, from £8 each, Neptune. Amalfi plates, from £10 each, Brissi. Stars, £4.99 each, Dobbies Garden Centres. Glass tealight holders, £3 each, Wilko. Mercury tealight holders, £9.95 for three, Nordic House. Champagne flutes, £30 for four; cake stand, £75 for a three-piece set; all LSA International. Advent house, £50, House of Fraser. Church in dome, £18.99, Gisela Graham. Mince pies, £2 for six; cake, £10; all Tesco. Votives, £3.50 each, Next. Napkins; cake stand; baubles; all as before. **ON SIDEBBOARD** Planter, from a selection, Petersham Nurseries. Candles, from £2 each, Waitrose. **ON/NEAR TREE** Decorations, from a selection, Gisela Graham. Giftwrap; ribbon; tag; all as before



P106 PORCH DECORATION AND FURNITURE Door painted in Sage Green Traditional Oil Eggshell, £56 for 2.5ltr, Little Greene. Table, from £380; planter, from a selection; both Petersham Nurseries. Wreath, from £75, Gardenia of London. Basket, £60; stool, £95; both Garden Trading. Doormat, £10, Next. Stickers, £5.50 for 13, Cox & Cox. Sign, £3, Wilko. Paper honeycombs, £6 for three, Talking Tables. **ON SHELF** Lantern, from £8, Tesco Direct. Tall lantern, £30, House of Fraser. Hexagonal tealight holder, £6, The White Company. Shimmer tealight holder, from £4, Lombok. **ON TABLE** Hurricane, £20; plates, £8 each; all The White Company. Shimmer tealight holders, as before. Reindeer, £25, House of Fraser. Lantern, as before. Garland, £12.95, Rastall & Daughters. Stocking, £3, Wilko. **ON STOOL** Basket, £70, Neptune. Giftwrap; ribbons; all from a selection, Berisfords Ribbons and Paperchase



Karndean
Designflooring

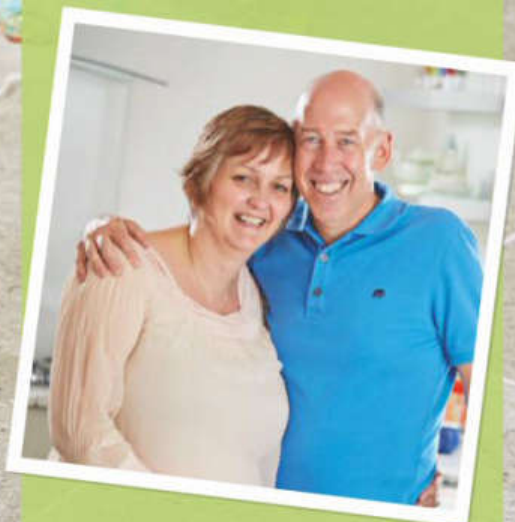
Jezfest vs. Karndean:

Jeremy & Vanessa's Story

"I'd always decided that I was going to have a big party for my 50th. One of my friends enjoyed it so much they said - Never mind Glastonbury, this is Jezfest!"

"We turned the hallway into a dancefloor in previous years whereas now having an open plan room and nice flooring we were able to congregate in here, confident that we didn't have to worry about anything happening to the floor."

Watch their story at:
karndean.com/jezfest



Classic and durable, Karndean is perfect for your home, giving you a practical and beautiful looking floor.

Ready to start your
Karndean story?
www.karndean.com



PICK THE Perfect pattern

Need inspiration? Check out the best of this season's fabrics and wallpapers

FOR WHERE TO BUY ITEMS SHOWN, TURN TO OUR SHOPPING DIRECTORY

Fall for metallic designs

WHY WE LOVE THEM

Inject light and warmth into your decorating scheme with the glitz and glamour of metallic wallpaper and fabrics. There's a huge selection to choose from, including traditional gold and silver designs, and the latest bronze, copper and rose-gold finishes.

WHERE TO USE THEM

Traditional damasks in metallic colourways create a dramatic focal point in a living or dining room, while metallic stripes, geometrics and florals look stunning in a bedroom or hall.

HOW TO USE THEM Due to their reflective nature, metallic wallpapers are an ideal choice in smaller rooms as they will

make the space seem larger, but go for a plain gilded design or one which has a more intricate pattern so that it's not overwhelming. Reserve big, bold patterns for larger rooms and statement feature walls. Rich metallic fabrics will add an opulent feel to curtains, while an upholstered sofa or armchair provides a luxurious touch.

HOW TO ACCESSORISE THEM

Don't be afraid to add metallic accessories to the mix – gold, silver, bronze and copper vases, ornaments and tableware will all enhance the glitz. Be sure to include a variety of lamps, candelabras and lanterns, too, as these will bounce light around the room even more.

3 places to buy SHINY DESIGNS

Barneby Gates Take a look at the striking design of Marrakech Palm, in Midnight Blue or Gold, £78 per roll.

Erica Wakerly Check out the many metallic wallpapers, including bold geometrics, floral motifs and several new copper designs, from £69 per roll.

Villa Nova The new Xander collection features fabric designs that are influenced by tarnished and burnished metals, from £25 per m, and lustrous wallcoverings, priced at £44 per roll.



EXTRA CELESTIAL
Metallic colourways add a touch of grandeur
Bayham Abbey wallpaper in Celestial, £57 per roll, Little Greene



‘Metallic designs will reflect Christmas fairy lights and candles to create an extra-magical atmosphere’

Karen Bray,
Acting Features Editor

TOP 10 Wallpapers

Chic metallics

Transform your walls with shimmer and shine

1

Smart choice

Textured foil designs are a subtle way to add glamour to a room
Muriva Foil texture gold effect, £18 per roll, B&Q

2

Add sparkle

A classic-style design with a silver-foil finish
Damask Foil, £32 per roll, Albany range, Wallpaperdirect

3

Bold blooms

Create a dramatic look
Botanic Charcoal/Gold, £20 per roll, Kelly Hoppen range, Graham & Brown

4

Geometric glam

Go for a delicate motif
Sussex, £58 per roll, Designers Guild range, John Lewis

5

Modern twist

An elegant new take on traditional damask
Alexander Gold, £44 per roll, Laura Ashley

More over the page...



▲ GOLDEN GLOW

Add warmth and depth to your scheme with a gilded bronze paper
Majestic Uni Cuivre MAJ26373129 wallpaper; Majestic Ornement Noir/Cuivre MAJ26419312 wallpaper; both £43.50 per roll, Casadeco

◀ ON THE TILES

A sophisticated trompe l'oeil tile effect is brought to life with a metallic finish
Akoa Platinum 110635 wallpaper, £78 per roll, Leonida Wallpapers collection; sofa covered in Perla, £68 per m; Aurelia, £92 per m; both Leonida Velvets collection; all Harlequin

IDEAL **V** GREAT DEAL

Spend or save on these luxurious damask fabrics

SHINE ON
Team scarlet and bronze for an eye-catching duo
Lydford damask, GP&J Baker range, Fabrics & Papers

£89
per m



CLASSIC TOUCH
A soft textured fabric that's ideal for a statement sofa or armchair
Conway damask, John Lewis

£30
per m

THE TOP 10 WALLPAPERS
...continued

‘Metallic wallpapers help to banish the winter gloom by adding a glamorous touch to any room’

Karen Bray,
Acting Features Editor

6

Out of Africa

An intricate Moorish design with soft, subtle metallic tones
Xilia Lovat, £50 per roll, Orvieto Wallcoverings collection, Romo

7

Striking gold

Simple yet glamorous
Ocelot Ombre W6547 02, £59 per roll, Eden collection, Matthew Williamson range, Osborne & Little

8

Standout style
Embossed paper with a metallic shimmer

Mosaic Dapple in Silver, £86 per roll, Zoffany

9

Luxurious leaves
A full-foil shiny design

Hothouse, £79 per roll, Erika Wakerly range, Wallpaperdirect

10

Copper classic
Smart, sparkly stripes

Artisan Stripe Copper, £20 per roll, Graham & Brown



Starla wallpaper, £59 per roll, Sojourn Wallpapers collection, Sanderson

FEATURE KAREN BRAY PHOTOGRAPHS RHAPSODY MEDIA

WHAT'S NEW AT Sanderson

The classic brand has launched a new range inspired by global prints

THE COMPANY Founded by Arthur Sanderson in 1860, Sanderson has become a household name in interior design, producing an extensive range of fabrics, wallpapers, bed linen, paint and tableware. Internationally renowned for its quintessentially English style, the collections today have evolved to encompass a broad range – from timeless and traditional classics to cutting-edge contemporary chic.

THE NEW COLLECTION Inspired by global textiles and treasured objects brought back from adventures abroad, the new Sojourn collection provides a

fresh approach on how to incorporate global patterns into our homes. The Starla wallpaper – available in cream and grey, and magenta and lime – features an Asian-style sunburst design, while the charming Boho Flowers fabric has a hand-crafted, folky feel. The classic paisley motif of the Jamila fabric is available in a combination of fresh, vibrant shades, including bright orange and lime, and coral and aqua.

WHY WE LOVE IT This extroverted collection reinvents traditional global-inspired prints, patterns and textures in a fresh and contemporary way.

Boho Flowers, £95 per m (top); Jamila, £85 per m; both Sojourn collection, Sanderson



CLARKE & CLARKE

KIM PARKER

Art Book www.clarke-clarke.com

COLOUR SCHOOL

Heritage Red

Warm up a country-style scheme with accents of this comforting colour

FOR WHERE TO BUY ITEMS SHOWN,
TURN TO OUR SHOPPING DIRECTORY

No other shade evokes the *celebratory mood* of Christmas quite like rich cranberry red. Use *woollen and felt textiles* in this bold colour to bring a welcoming atmosphere to a cool palette of *taupe and grey*. Add plenty of *natural elements*, such as wooden furniture, wicker baskets and *evergreen foliage*, for a refined, traditional scheme with a cosy, enveloping feel

Best berries
Choose nature-inspired seasonal decorations
Red berry wreath, £2.99, Dobbies Garden Centres



Red alert
Mix up country-style patterns
Chalet cushion in Massif Red, £49.95, Bronte by Moon



Light up
Create a warm glow with candlelight
Wooden lantern, £27.99, Rustic Ramble range, Dunelm



Fireside seat
Cosy up for an evening in Holmfirth gent's chair in Ullswater Carmine, £896, Sofas & Stuff



Rustic touch
Store firewood in a woven basket
Willow basket, £35 for two, House of Fraser



It's a wrap
Add a hit of bold red to a grey sofa
Lacota reversible throw in Poppy Red, £69, Oka



THE PALETTE

Add hits of red for an inviting space

DEEP HUE

Make it cosy with this rich shade

VERY BERRY

A bright cranberry will lift neutrals

SIMPLE LINEN

Choose a soft, natural tone as a soothing contrast

Ruby Fountain 1 Paint Mixing matt emulsion, £24.49 for 2.5ltr, Dulux

Pretty Poppy Walls & Ceilings, £26.98 for 2.5ltr, Valspar range, B&Q

Birch Grove matt emulsion, £28 for 2.5ltr, Albany range, Designerpaint



Bring a contemporary spin to a country scheme by mixing checked and fun animal-print patterns



IDEAL HOME ♥ MOODBOARD

Heritage Red



For details of this moodboard,
turn to page 96

See all the details & more ways with heritage red over the page

More ways with heritage red

Try it with...

CHOCOLATE BROWN

Layer different shades of brown on walls, flooring and fabrics for country-club style

Soft touch

Mix tactile textures
Cranberry velvet, £40 per m, Neptune

Pale fawn

A chalky shade
True Taupe
Absolute Matt Emulsion, £37 for 2.5ltr, Little Greene

Check it

Woollen wonder
Reflection in Mocha U1117/D03, £49.95 per m, Abraham Moon & Sons



Combine taupe walls with leather furniture and plaid textiles for relaxed elegance



Get a modern look with a plank-effect paper and a mix of bold checks

Try it with...

MONOCHROME

For a contemporary take on country style, stick to a striking palette of red, black and white, and team checked fabrics with a rustic-effect wallpaper

Plaid and proud

Go for a bold choice
Quirky Fling in Natural, £99.84 per sq m, Alternative Flooring

Forest lodge

Distressed effect
Peeling Planks wallpaper, £48 per roll, Clarke & Clarke

Rich red

Add deep colour
Radicchio Estate Emulsion, £38 for 2.5ltr, Farrow & Ball

DECORATION AND FURNITURE Walls painted in Elephant Grey matt emulsion, £39 for 2.5ltr, Zoffany. Flat Victorian mantel, from £366, Amazing Grates; painted in Storm Grey eggshell, £39 for 2.5ltr, Zoffany. Knightsbridge carpet, £80 per sq m, Brintons. Queen Anne footstool, from £620, The Dormy House; covered in Launay Linen, £50 per m, Romo. Pudding sofa in Willow wool, £1,395; Sandie side table, £225; both Loaf. Climping armchair in Hawes linen, £1,386, Sofas & Stuff. Radley dressers, £1,859 each, Multiyork. C-Seven wood-burning stove, £1,236, Charnwood. Curtains made in Launay Linen, as before; border made in Launay Cranberry, £50 per m, Romo. 7ft Norway Spruce tree, £299, Balsam Hill. Sledge, £98, Hedgehog. Log basket, £60, Garden Trading. **ON SOFA** Cushions, from left: made in Bonham Lacquer Red, £59.50 per m, Romo; Needful in Flax, £45, Loaf; made in Red Dachshund, £48 per m, Emily Bond; made in Burlington Lacquer Red, £59.50 per m, Romo. **ON/NEAR FOOTSTOOL**

Chalet throw, £89.95, Bronte by Moon. Leather tray, £115, Life of Riley. Glass jar vase, from £18, Rockett St George. Crackers, £55 for six, Thornback and Peel. Red glass candle, £36, Molton Brown. Red plate, £1.50, Tesco Direct. Decanter, £40, John Lewis. Kraft gift boxes, from £2.50 each; red ribbon, from a selection; kraft paper, £4 for 50 sheets; all Paperchase. Jura tartan ribbon, £4.50 per roll, Jane Means. Dog trinket, £3 for three, Sainsbury's. Robin, £3.50, National Portrait Gallery. **ON CHAIR** Cushion made in Bonham Lacquer Red, as before. **ON TREE** Wooden snowflake decorations, £11.25 for three, Pipii. Other decorations, from a selection, Dobbies Garden Centres and Tesco Direct. Robins, as before. Christmas lights, £18 for 80, John Lewis. **ON/NEAR MANTEL** Lanterns, from £25 each; pillar candles, from £6 each; all Nordic House. Bertie on wheels, from £45, Plum & Ashby. Red glass candle, as before; terrarium, £22.50; Party dome dog, £10; all Rockett St George. Fraser fir wreath, from £49;

Fraser fir lit garland, £79; both Balsam Hill. For a similar berry garland, try the red berry and cone, £20, Tesco Direct. Present decorations, £14 for two, Plum & Ashby. Stocking, £11.99, Dobbies Garden Centres. Cracker, as before. **ON SIDE TABLE** Terrarium, as before. Robin, as before. Wooden lantern, £15, Tesco Direct. Pillar candle, as before. For a similar lamp base, try the Ockley, £80, Laura Ashley. 16in drum lampshade, £69.75, Lighting Works; covered in Red Dachshund, as before. **IN LEFT-HAND DRESSER** (from top) Glass jar vases, as before. Noel light, £25, George. Pine cone and berries wreath, £29, Very. Silver wreath, £30, Debenhams. **IN RIGHT-HAND DRESSER** (from top) Hurricanes, £48 each, Rockett St George. Frame, £10, Sainsbury's. Ceramic Bertie decorations, £35 each, Plum & Ashby. Retro taupe vase, £25.50, Nordic House. Storm lanterns, £48 each, John Lewis. Baubles, £16.65 for six, LoveCrochet. Leather box, £165, Life of Riley

dwell

live like this

fraro three seater sofa £999
pentagon side table walnut £99
blade charcoal rugs from £249
cushions from £24.95



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stellar base glass dining table clear
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reversible desk and drawers walnut
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NOW OPEN - New Malden | **OPENS NOVEMBER** - Reading

Barton Square | Princes Square, Glasgow | **NOW OPEN** - Tollcross, Glasgow

Create a winter WONDERLAND

Bring the beauty of the outdoors into your home

Escape the seasonal hustle and bustle and create a calm, wintry retreat at home this Christmas. From festive furnishings and tableware to wreaths, baubles and Christmas decorations, you'll find all you need to set the scene in the new Winter's Tale collection at Sainsbury's.

Keep it calm

Go for understated cool with a chic, silver and white scheme this Christmas. The essence of this look is found in the wintry outdoor landscape, with its snowy scenes, frosty finishes and icy palette.

Snuggle in

Warm up this wintry scheme with cosy textures and tactile finishes. The range includes accessories and touches of sparkle to help you pull the look together.

Look to nature

Take inspiration from nature when it comes to finishing touches – think rustic pine-cone wreaths, forest scenes and silver stags. You'll find everything you need in the Winter's Tale collection, available in selected Sainsbury's stores.



A touch of frost

Channel midwinter's beauty with shimmering silver and grey designs
Elegant reindeer, £35; large whitewash lit wreath, £25; silver sequin cushion, £15; decorations, from a selection; all Sainsbury's



Soft focus

Cast a cosy glow with warm lighting
Large light-up cone tree, £20; large natural star, £8; both Sainsbury's



Cool candle

Bring sophisticated style
Winter Wishes glass candle with metal lid, £15, Sainsbury's



Take heart

Add sparkle to the tree with silver decorations
Heart trinket, £6, Sainsbury's



Forest scene

Enjoy a view with your brew
Winter Trees mug, £2.50, Sainsbury's



Twig this

A simple centrepiece
Whitewash twig candle wreath, £12, Sainsbury's



For more information...

TO SEE PRODUCTS FROM THE AUTUMN/WINTER RANGES AND FOR DETAILS OF YOUR NEAREST STORE, VISIT sainsburyshome.co.uk

Sainsbury's



'An icy palette of white, grey and silver will transform your home this Christmas'

ANDREW TANNER,
 HEAD OF HOME DESIGN, SAINSBURY'S

Boutique HOTEL SPY

Belmond Le Manoir aux Quat'Saisons

We took a sneak peek into this
gorgeous hotel to bring you luxe style
inspiration anyone can steal

FOR WHERE TO BUY ITEMS SHOWN, TURN TO OUR SHOPPING DIRECTORY

LOCATION Situated in the picturesque Oxfordshire village of Great Milton, Belmond Le Manoir aux Quat'Saisons is one of the country's most intimate and original hotels, and was created by celebrated chef Raymond Blanc OBE.

ROOMS The five Superior rooms, each inspired by Raymond Blanc's travels, have a luxurious feel with sumptuous soft furnishings and queen-size beds. There are also Deluxe rooms and several suites. The pièce de résistance, however, is the Blanc de Blanc suite (pictured), which consists of a bedroom, living room, dressing room, marble

bathroom and terrace. Decorated in a tranquil palette of white and cream, this ecofriendly suite features classic furniture for a timeless, elegant feel, with sleek ceramics and a chandelier adding to the sense of luxury.

FAMOUS FOR Offering one of the finest gastronomic experiences in the country, thanks to the acclaimed on-site Raymond Blanc Cookery School. When the hotel opened in 1984, it received two Michelin stars, which it still has, so you can expect some of the best food in the world.

CELEBRITY GUESTS Recent guests include Katherine Jenkins, Lesley Garrett and *Strictly*'s Brendan Cole.

YOU CAN BUY THE LOOK...



Bling it up
Bring glamour to
a neutral scheme
Everly chandelier,
BHS



Shade of pale
Has subtle textured
detail for added interest
Norton white textural
ceramic vase, Habitat



Table talk
The oval top gives it
a soft, sleek outline
Austin extendable dining
table (H77cm x W106cm
x L138-179cm), Dunelm



Take flight
This display cabinet
doubles up as a
striking ornament
Aviary cage cabinet
in ivory, India Jane



Curved lines
Add a touch of
French-style chic
Provencal linen lady's
chair, The French
Bedroom Company



FACT FILE

HOTEL
Belmond Le Manoir
aux Quat'Saisons

ADDRESS
Church Road,
Great Milton,
Oxford OX44 7PD

PRICE
From £550 per night
for a Superior room,
including breakfast

CONTACT
01844 278881;
belmond.com/
le-manoir-aux-quat-
saisons-oxfordshire

Add interest to an all-cream scheme with curvy, textured accessories, plus a chic chandelier for a luxurious feel

WIN A NIGHT'S STAY

Visit the Home Shopping Spy blog for our review of this hotel and more great shopping ideas, plus your chance to win a night's stay for two people

Stick to different tones of one pale neutral colour to create a tranquil feel

IDEAL HOME ♥ MOODBOARD Calming Creams



LOVE THE LOOK

Team pale, textured neutrals with touches of gold and sparkle, then add a fresh white floral display

For more moodboards turn to page 96

IDEAL V GREAT DEAL

Get the look whatever the budget



£168

White light

Pick a sculptural lamp
Selby marble large lamp base; 16in Mocha shade; both Laura Ashley



£46

Light up
A hand-made design that will look great on a mantelpiece or side table
Flared storm lantern (H29cm), LSA International



£7.99

All aglow
Also includes sand to keep the candle firmly in place
Hurricane vase set (H20cm), Dunelm

OUT
NOW



Ideal Home's COMPLETE GUIDE TO

Christmas



Packed with
fresh ideas, tips
and know-how
to make this year
truly magical



Simple ways to make your
home look beautiful



Essential buys and the
most indulgent treats



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PROPERTY PROJECTS

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FOR WHERE TO BUY ITEMS SHOWN, TURN TO OUR SHOPPING DIRECTORY



REAL HOME IMPROVEMENT



‘We extended not once or twice, but three times’

Kevin and Alison Collins lived with

their three children in a run-down Fifties house in Cambridge for two years, before deciding what to do to it, but now it's unrecognisable. After replacing the garage with a two-storey side extension, the couple added another two-storey extension to the front of the house to create a study, utility room and a fourth bedroom. Then, a third single-story extension across the back gave them

space for an open-plan kitchen-diner, living area and a playroom, and three new sets of bifold doors now flood those rooms with light. The roof and windows were replaced, and the whole house was rendered in white. A 16-panel photovoltaic solar system was installed on the roof to generate electricity. ‘We wanted a home with enough space for us all to spend time together,’ says Kevin. ‘It's everything we'd hoped for and more.’



FIND OUT MORE...

- Photovoltaic (PV) panels can generate electricity even on a cloudy day, though they work best in strong sunlight.
- The power of a solar PV system is measured

- in kilowatts peak (kWp).
- The average system is a 4kWp model costing from £6,000-£7,400, equivalent to a typical household's annual electricity needs.



Underfloor heating is a good solution for tiled floors

SOURCEBOOK

Underfloor heating

Don't know where to start? Try our top five places...

FLOOR HEATING-DIRECT

01887 822028; floorheating-direct.co.uk Supplying a wide range of both water and electric underfloor-heating systems, this company also has a tool on its website that lets you type in your flooring details and get instant costs. Prices from £330 for a 20sq m wet-system kit.

HEAT MAT 01444 247020;

heatmat.co.uk This leading manufacturer and distributor of electric underfloor heating also produces ultra-thin mats and systems for small areas. Prices start from £175 for 1.1sq m, excluding installation.

NU-HEAT 01404 549770;

nu-heat.co.uk Major suppliers of warm-water underfloor heating and integrated renewable systems, such as solar thermal energy and heat pumps. All systems are bespoke, but a single zone of 10sq m costs from £522.

UNDERFLOOR HEATING SYSTEMS 01905 616928;

underfloorheatingsystems.co.uk Suppliers and installers of warm-water systems for more than a decade. Prices from £370 for a 10sq m kit, plus £5-£6 per sq m for installation if needed.

THE UNDERFLOOR

SUPERSTORE 01530 414413; theunderfloorsuperstore.co.uk

Suppliers of wet and electric underfloor systems, as well as air-source heat pumps. Wet systems are priced from £383 for a 20sq m kit.



Pacrylic Graphite Gloss kitchen, £172 for a W600mm high-line base unit, Designer range, Wren Kitchens



Kitchen, from £15,000, Ashton range, Crown Imperial

TOP TREND

Dark tones

If sleek minimalism and glossy white units aren't your thing, you're not alone – there's a rising popularity for kitchens with dark-coloured units that create an intimate, cosy ambience. Neptune's beautiful solid-wood kitchens look fabulous in darker shades, such as the Suffolk design in sophisticated charcoal. Or you could have just your island in a deep, dark colour to contrast with the rest of the units, such as the rich-red island (above) from the Ashton range – a classic country kitchen from Crown Imperial. Wren Kitchens also has a complete section on its website dedicated to dark- and black-coloured kitchens, with a selection available in both its designer range and the Linda Barker Collection.

Speed it up

Varnish wood floors in less time with Ronseal's Perfect Finish Diamond Hard floor varnish, which comes with a pad attached to a long handle for easy application.



Perfect Finish Diamond Hard floor varnish, £49.98 for 2.5ltr, Ronseal range, B&Q

IDEAL GREAT DEAL

Spend or save on wood-burning stoves



Classic lines

This stove has a two-position grate for optimal burning
Bellingham 8.3kW solid-fuel stove, Dimplex



Savvy buy

The controlled airwash system on this model aids combustion
Valor Ridlington 8kW cast iron multi-fuel stove, Homebase

Project KNOW HOW

Tempted to build your own home? Visit selfbuildportal.org.uk for inspiring case studies, plot availability and planning advice. Produced by the National Custom & Self Build Association, it's a handy forum that will kick-start your project

FEATURE CHERRY MASLEN
PHOTOGRAPHS TERRY MAHONEY

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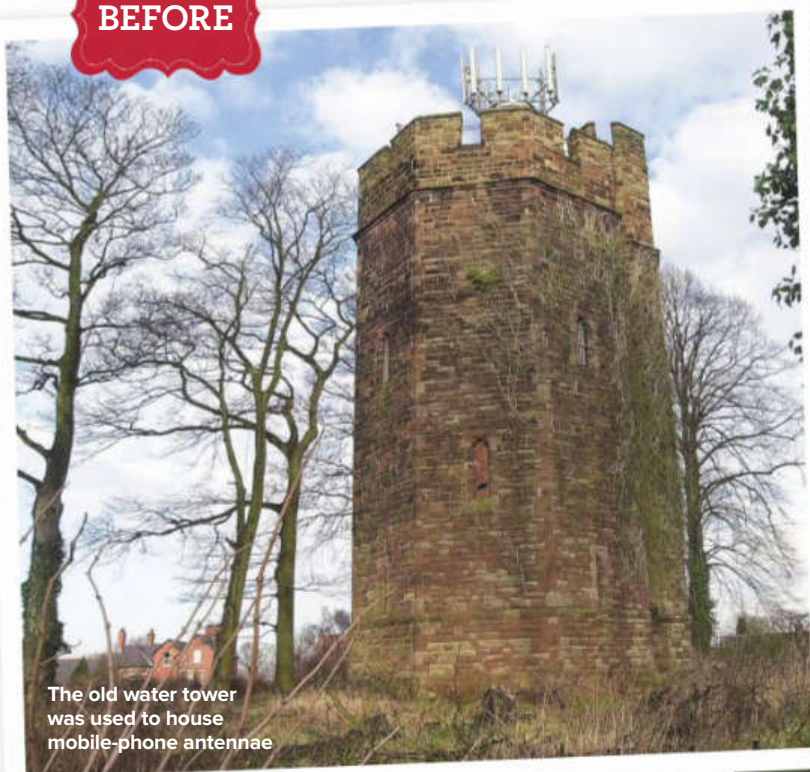
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EXTREME *Transformations*

BEFORE



The old water tower was used to house mobile-phone antennae

AFTER



From disused water tower...

Russell and Jannette Harris converted and extended a Grade-II listed

Pure impulse led Russell and Jannette Harris to become owners of a derelict water tower, a much-loved local landmark in the pretty Cheshire village of Lymm. The couple had lived in the village for several years with their children, James and Sophie, and would often pass the tower – a crumbling, 130-year-old landmark straight out of a fairytale. Redundant for 30 years, its sole purpose now was to serve as a platform for a number of mobile-phone antennae.

Russell would regularly walk his dog along the footpath by the side of the

tower, and when it came onto the open market, he impulsively put in a bid and bought the stone structure. Suddenly, he and Jannette found themselves the owners of a Grade-II-listed building, and had to decide exactly what to do with their new acquisition. 'What began as a whim turned into our own personal Everest,' admits Russell when he describes the ambitious project they took on. 'There were times when we thought we might never move in.'

MAKING PLANS Intent on creating an inspirational family home within the tower, the couple soon realised that it would be necessary to build a modern extension. Over a period

of five years, they battled with planners and local opposition, saw several architects come and go, and almost lost heart. However, a chance meeting with Barry Harvey of Redrow Homes proved a turning point. He introduced Russell and Jannette to Ellis Williams Architects (01928 752200; ewa.co.uk), and Julian Baker from the practice came up with drawings that focused on blending contemporary design with the building's traditional features.

Today, the finished two-storey extension has a sleek curved exterior finished in white render, with large panels of glazing and a distinctive overhanging roof. Inside, a series of



The sleek extension contrasts with the tower's historic features

With its wraparound extension, the restored water tower is now a spacious family home

Take the **60-SECOND TOUR**

THE PROPERTY

A five-bedroom, five-storey converted 1870s stone water tower in Lymm, Cheshire.

WHO LIVES HERE

Russell and Jannette Harris, with their children, James, 25, and Sophie, 20. Russell is a TV presenter/producer and Jannette is a production co-ordinator.

WHAT THEY DID

The couple restored the listed tower and built a two-storey wraparound modern extension.

WHAT IT COST

The Harrises paid £138,000 for the tower in 1997 and have spent more than £750,000 restoring and extending the building, which is now worth more than £2 million.

FIRST FLOOR ►

To the right of the stairs are three bedrooms and a bathroom. The main bedroom with a walk-in wardrobe and en suite is in the original tower



▼ A penthouse is located on the upper floors of the water tower



◀ GROUND FLOOR

The living area is inside the original water tower. The curved extension built around it has a kitchen, living room, dining room, utility room and cloakroom



to hi-tech modern home

Victorian water tower into a stunning contemporary property

outward-facing living areas occupy the ground floor, with bedrooms above.

CHALLENGING PROCESS 'The tower was built in 1870 and was sponsored by the local landed gentry, which is why it is so beautiful,' says Jannette. 'It was the classic romantic Rapunzel tower, but it was also in desperate need of restoration.' A detailed report by a structural engineer found the existing water tank to be expanding due to corrosion, which had caused some cracking in the stonework. Also, the turret at the top of the spiral stairs had been damaged by movement of the original flagpole. All this called for a number of specialist companies to

be brought in and led Russell to give up work and take on the demanding role of project manager, overseeing the 60 companies involved in the restoration and build process.

An unsightly selection of mobile phone antennae on the roof of the old tower meant that the couple were entitled to rental income from various telecom operators – all very useful when faced with such a huge and costly building project – but the problem of what to do with the ugly masts remained. The architect's clever solution was to conceal them by adding another storey to the existing stone turret and to recycle the heat →



Russell and Jannette Harris

We love...

...the 6m-high windows in the extension, as they help connect us to the changing seasons'

The living area is a sleek, ultramodern space with a wall of glazing that brings the outdoors in



they produce back into the building's underfloor heating system.

The main tower was sandblasted and the original water tank removed, with new windows punched into the thick stonework. Huge steel frames weighing around 25 tons were then hoisted into place to support the concrete floors, and argon-filled double-glazed units were fitted before foundations could be laid for the new extension of rendered blockwork.

Problems occurred at almost every stage of the project, costs spiralled and the family watched dispiritedly as recently applied render washed off the walls in the rain, setting them back a week. However, after eight long years, the work is finally

complete. 'Since taking on this project, we've become passionate about modern architecture and wanted the interior to be as simple and uncluttered as possible,' says Jannette. 'We chose a seamless white resin floor for the main living spaces and added colour with lighting. The house has a tremendous utilitarian look to it that feels both contemporary and luxurious.'

'We didn't go out for dinner or on holiday during the build, and we lived in our work clothes,' says Russell. 'Sometimes I wished we'd never bought the tower, but the camaraderie of the team kept us going, and the first time we soaked in the roof-top hot tub with its 360° views, we knew it had all been worthwhile.'

IN DETAIL SUSPENDED FIRES

Install a striking fireplace, like Russell and Janette did

A contemporary suspended fireplace makes a stunning feature in Russell and Janette's open-plan living area.

■ The Focus Gyrofocus wood-burning fire was from Diligence (01364 644790; diligenceinternational.com).

■ Check with the supplier, an architect or structural engineer to ensure that your ceiling will be strong enough to bear the

weight of this type of fire. A suspension plate should comply with building regulations and HETAS (hetas.co.uk) requirements, and will usually contain the insulated flue required for installation.

■ A non-combustible hearth, at least 12mm thick, is required for suspended wood burners, and should extend 300mm all around the fire front.

RENOVATION KNOW-HOW

■ **Many alterations can be made under Permitted Development**, meaning you don't need to get planning permission. For more information on planning and building regulations, visit planningportal.gov.uk and always check with your local authority before making any major changes.

■ **Keep your neighbours informed** at all stages and you might need to obtain party wall agreements, too. Check the advice given at planningportal.gov.uk.

■ **For extensions and major remodelling**, it's usually advisable to employ an architect to draw up accurate plans: the Royal Institute of British Architects (architecture.com) holds a directory of approved architects.

■ **Get at least three quotes for all major purchases**, including when you're hiring tradesmen and, whenever possible, negotiate fixed prices for each job rather than paying a daily rate.

■ **It's not usually advisable to undertake major roofing work on a DIY basis**. Go to the National Federation of Roofing Contractors' website (nfr.co.uk) to find a reputable roofer to do the work.

■ **Remember to factor delays into the schedule** and always have a contingency pot of money to pay for those unforeseen expenses.



The cottage had been extended to create a four-bedroom home

BEFORE

EXTREME *Transformation 2*



Building the extension has provided a link between the house and garden

AFTER

‘We added a garden room’

Denise and Clive Wells brought their period cottage into the 21st century with a sweeping glazed extension

Having enjoyed many family holidays in their Devon cottage, Clive and Denise Wells knew they would need to make changes to turn it into a permanent home for their retirement. Situated in a village near Kingsbridge, the house was built in the 17th century, with just one room downstairs and a small first floor. Extended over the years, it now has four bedrooms and a bathroom upstairs, with a kitchen, dining room and living room on the ground floor.

The couple wanted a space where they could sit and enjoy the garden, and they found the solution in a magazine article. ‘We contacted the company featured and Stuart Bayley from

Living Space Architects (01392 270420; livingspacearchitects.com) suggested building a modern extension,’ says Denise. ‘We loved his design.’ The curved single-storey extension echoes the cottage’s patio with a sweeping glazed wall and a radial flat roof clad in zinc.

CAREFUL PLANNING Stuart worked closely with the conservation officer, and stressed that the new extension would have little impact on the older building. The timber windows were retained and now look out into the extension, while the original external glazed doors from the old living room lead into the new space.

Planning permission was granted and the Wells appointed builder John Oldrieve to do the work, which began in September 2011 and was completed a year later. The patio was lifted and foundations excavated for the curved steel and glass structure, which stands on a partially suspended floor slab and opens onto the new terrace through faceted bifold doors.

The couple paid £624,000 for the property in 2003 and spent £150,000 on the extension. The cottage is now valued at £900,000.

‘Building the garden room has transformed our lives,’ says Denise. ‘We keep the doors open in summer and it’s perfect for entertaining. Now everyone wants to spend time in our new extension because not many people have such fabulous views from their own sofa.’



Denise and Clive Wells

Trials & triumphs...

■ **What was the high point?**

‘Seeing how well the new and old buildings work together.’

■ **Any low points?**

‘The four-month delay while the glass doors were made, which held up the build’s progress.’

■ **What was the project saviour?**

‘Our view of the garden – the extension has created a real indoor/outdoor feel.’



A curved wall with bifold doors lets in plenty of natural light

'We turned our living room into a kitchen'

It's possible to repurpose space to suit your needs, as the Robinsons discovered by swapping rooms

FOR WHERE TO BUY ITEMS SHOWN, TURN THE PAGE



Open choices

The garden room built onto what used to be the living room floods the new kitchen with natural light. Jill and Jim chose a breakfast bar and red tones to create a relaxed space. 'I love the red, but I can paint over it if I want a different look,' says Jill

Love their STYLE?

JILL AND JIM'S UNITS ARE FROM DALE PENNEY FURNITURE £££. FOR SIMILAR, TRY IKEA'S METOD/FÖRVARA £ OR THE MILTON PAINTED UNITS FROM SECOND NATURE ££

BEFORE



Take the 60-SECOND TOUR

THE PROPERTY

A four-bedroom barn conversion in Gilmorton, Leicestershire.

WHO LIVES HERE

Jill and Jim Robinson.

WHAT THEY DID

The couple resited their new kitchen to the living room and added an oak-framed garden room to create space for dining and relaxing.

THE LOOK

Modern country, with a timber ceiling, Shaker-style cabinetry, an oak seating area and splashes of red.

LESSONS LEARNED

“Try not to be too sentimental about keeping old, redundant architectural features. It's okay to remove them if doing so gives you a better living space.”



WHAT IT COST

Units.....	£15,000
Worktops.....	£4,654
Splashback.....	£348
Taps and sinks.....	£1,663
Appliances.....	£13,345
Flooring.....	£4,800
Lighting.....	£161
Extractor.....	£220
TOTAL.....	£40,191

TURN OVER TO FIND OUT HOW
Jill and Jim created their new kitchen

THE LAYOUT A narrow island is positioned between two runs of units, and includes two sinks, cupboards and a seating area. An American-style fridge-freezer sits next to a pull-out larder on the right



Once their three children had flown the nest, Jill and Jim Robinson decided that it was time to remodel and refurbish their home to create a modern layout that suited their needs more. 'The old kitchen was on the north-facing side of the house and felt dingy,' Jill explains. 'The dark oak units we'd inherited from the previous owners felt oppressive, and we lacked worktop and storage space.'

The couple decided to add a small, glazed, oak-framed, garden-room extension to the existing living room, and to relocate the kitchen to this new space on the south side of the house. 'The aim was to create the large,

bright kitchen with living and dining areas that we'd always wanted,' says Jill.

A friend recommended a kitchen designer to the couple. 'When we visited the workshop, we were impressed by the craftsmanship and attention to detail,' says Jill. 'Initially, we considered a contemporary design, but as we're both quite traditional, we decided to opt for a Shaker-style kitchen with some modern details instead.'

Now that the kitchen is complete, Jill is relishing the thought of Christmas. 'We have a huge family gathering planned and I can't wait to have them all here,' she says. 'My new kitchen is so welcoming, with space for us all to be together. It's my dream come true.'

▲ Quick results

A swan-neck tap with pull-out nozzle is a stylish and functional addition to the island, with a separate tap providing instant boiling water. 'I use this all the time during the day to fill saucepans and to make hot drinks,' says Jill

Family heirloom

A table inherited from Jill's mother creates a cosy dining space, with great views across the surrounding countryside

▲ *Clever touch*

A solid-oak chopping board with a lip slides along the worktop but stays secure when in use

KITCHEN SOURCEBOOK

WHERE TO BUY

Bespoke **units**, £15,000; solid oak **worktop**, £1,020; red **glass splashback**, £348; all Dale Penney Furniture. For similar **worktops**, try the Compac 30mm quartz worktop, £408 per sq m, Henderstone. For similar **floor tiles**, try the Ancient Fortress Corfe, £49.95 per sq m, Walls and Floors. 26 **sink**, £192; 45 **sink**, £322; both Cisterna range, Villeroy & Boch. Belfast **tap**, £299, Franke. PRO3 VAQ Basic **boiling water tap**, from £850, Quooker. For a similar **extractor**, try the ELIPLANE80, £230, Elica range, Appliances Direct. Total Control 3 **range cooker**, from £10,695; DxD stainless steel **fridge-freezer**, £2,650; both Aga. **Island** painted in Pugin Red eggshell, £50.35 for 2.5ltr, Dulux range, Designerpaint. **Wall units** painted in New White Estate Eggshell, £53 for 2.5ltr; **kitchen walls** painted in Pointing Estate Emulsion; **garden room walls** painted in Dimity Estate Emulsion; both £38 for 2.5ltr; all Farrow & Ball. For similar **bar stools**, try the Lush chrome, £97.50 each, Atlantic Shopping. For similar **pendant lights**, try the Flori, from £86 each, Rowen & Wren. For a similar dining **table** and **chairs**, try the Wiltshire table with four chairs, £849, The Cotswold Company. Sockerärt jug **vase**, £7.50, Ikea

FOR DETAILS TURN TO
OUR SHOPPING DIRECTORY

*Mixing it up*

A glass splashback sits beneath a French farmhouse-style hood with a built-in extractor



How we did it

“ We built a glazed extension with patio doors leading onto the garden to create an open-plan room. We also removed a fake fireplace in the living room to free up a wall for a run of units. I wanted an island, but was worried it might dominate, so our designer created a slimline unit with a neat, circular breakfast bar. Work began in spring 2013 and finished in time for Christmas, but we were able to use our old kitchen the whole time. The installation of this kitchen cost £1,787. ”

‘I wanted a bright, versatile space’

Tired of a dark, dingy kitchen? Copy the Porters by opening up a room and decorating it all in white

FOR WHERE TO BUY ITEMS SHOWN, TURN THE PAGE



The white choice

The Porters went for a soothing all-white scheme and added new windows and a glazed door to let in as much daylight as possible

Love their STYLE?

THE PORTERS' ELICA CIRCUS COOKER HOOD IS FROM APPLIANCECITY.CO.UK ££. FOR SIMILAR, TRY THE HOTPOINT HDA65SAB AT AO.COM £ OR THE NEFF I89DK62NOB FROM JOHN LEWIS

£££

BEFORE



Take the 60-SECOND TOUR

THE PROPERTY

A four-bedroom, Nineties, detached house in Winslow, Buckinghamshire.

WHO LIVES HERE

Anne-Lise and Brian Porter.

WHAT THEY DID

The couple extended at the side of the house and knocked down a wall between the kitchen and living room to create an open-plan space. They also fitted two new windows and a door opening on to the garden.

THE LOOK

Relaxed country, with an all-white palette and a Scandinavian feel.

LESSONS LEARNED

“You have to be relaxed about building work and accept that it takes as long as it takes.”

WHAT IT COST

Units.....	£2,120
Worktops.....	£273
Splashback.....	£85
Sink.....	£225
Tap.....	£350
Appliances.....	£2,495
Floor tiles.....	£420
Paint.....	£45
Blinds.....	£44
Lighting.....	£276
TOTAL.....	£6,333

TURN OVER TO FIND OUT HOW
Anne-Lise and Brian created their new kitchen



THE LAYOUT The hob is positioned between two windows. The sink is opposite it, behind a partition that separates the kitchen from a living area. The ovens and a built-in fridge-freezer are in a bank of units on the back wall

What caught your eye first, the kitchen or the price?



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* Priced kitchen is for units only and does not include the price of any handles, worktops, appliances, sink, tap, props, accessories or small worktop appliances. Must be purchased in the exact configuration as offered by Wren. No substitutions or alterations can be made.





Anne-Lise Porter's first impression of the home she shares with husband Brian wasn't good. 'When I saw the kitchen, I was horrified,' she says. 'It was dingy and dirty, with dark oak units and a lino floor. It had just one window, so there wasn't much light, either.' However, she was able to see beyond the dated décor and decided to replace the wall between the kitchen and the living room with a partition to create an open-plan room with zones.

The couple also extended to the side of the house to enlarge the cooking area. 'Being Danish, I wanted a room with lots of light,' says Anne-Lise. 'We also needed a family friendly

space where we could keep an eye on our three grandchildren when they are playing.'

Anne-Lise and Brian decided on a galley layout for practicality. 'The partition between the kitchen and living area is high enough to hide the cooking area when you're sitting in the living space,' says Anne-Lise.

White walls, units, worktops and flooring create a sleek look. The couple maximised natural light by adding new windows on either side of the hob and replacing an existing window with a door opening out to the garden.

This Christmas, Anne-Lise is looking forward to using her new kitchen. 'It's perfect,' she says. 'Brian and I can cook lunch, chat to our guests and watch over our grandchildren all at once.' ➔

▲ Zoned approach

The kitchen and living areas are separated by a partition, which hides the cooking pots and dishes from guests sitting in the living area



Wonder wall
A bank of floor-to-ceiling units and built-in appliances across the back wall of the kitchen has a streamlined look

KITCHEN SOURCEBOOK WHERE TO BUY

For similar **units**, try the Metod with Ringhult white doors, from £74 for a W600mm base unit; Lansa **handles**, £4.50 for two; for a similar **worktop**, try the Fyndig, from £20 for L1,260mm; all Ikea.

Olympus **tap**, £350, Franke range, Plumbworld. For a similar ceramic **sink**, try the RL304 CW, £130, Reginox range, Tradingdepot.co.uk. For a similar **double oven**, try the U14M42N3GB, £599, Neff range;

for a similar **hob**, try the SE2951TC2, £569, Smeg range; for a similar **cooker hood**, try the Circus HE90, £659, Elica range;

all Appliancecity.co.uk. For a similar **built-in microwave**, try the HMT75M551B, £299; for a similar **dishwasher**, try the Series 6 SMS63M22GB, £439; both Bosch range, Ao.com. For a similar **splashback**, try the Matrix Ice, £120 for 600mm x 750mm,

Topps Tiles. For similar **floor tiles**, try the Flavium, £20.95 per sq m, Episode Ceramica range, Ceramic Tile Company. Karlstad **sofa**, £279; for similar **pendants**, try the Melodi, £13 each; all Ikea.

For a similar **cabinet** (near sofa), try the Lundy two door cabinet, £199, The Cotswold Company

**FOR DETAILS TURN TO
OUR SHOPPING DIRECTORY**



▲ In harmony
A ceramic sink adds country style and blends seamlessly into the all-white scheme



How we did it
“ We needed planning permission for the structural changes we wanted to make to the kitchen, so we hired a chartered surveyor. The work took three months, during which time we used the dining room as a kitchen and did the washing up in the bath. The building work cost about £20,000 for the whole ground floor, including the kitchen. Brian fitted the kitchen himself, but we hired a tradesman to do the tiling. Brian tried tiling the kitchen in our old house and I took one look at it and said, ‘Never again’. You have to know your limits! ”

Go glossy

Sleek-looking pale units
contrast with oak worktops

**Appleby high-gloss
cream with integrated
handle kitchen, £1,855
for eight units*, Cooke
& Lewis at B&Q**



No longer just a *practical space* for cooking and doing the dishes, today's kitchen serves many *different functions*. For some, it's the place where *family members* gather to share meals and catch up, while for others, it's a *sociable space* designed for entertaining friends. Whatever role your kitchen is going to play in your home, B&Q has combined *innovative design* and *impressive craftsmanship* to offer a range of high-quality kitchen styles to suit all budgets.



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Discover timeless **CRAFTSMANSHIP**

*Choose high-quality finishes and durable materials
with B&Q's Cooke & Lewis stylish kitchens*

When updating a kitchen, there are a few things you need to figure out first. Are you going for a refresh or a complete refit? What do you want from the available space? The best thing to do first is consider who uses the kitchen and what for, then go from there.

Write a list of what frustrates you about your kitchen and what you would like to improve, then create a wish list for your dream room. Planning is key to creating the ideal space for your lifestyle, so invest

plenty of time in doing all-important research before buying so that you can make the most informed decisions.

Explore the range

To help you make your dream kitchen a reality, B&Q has 16 exclusive Cooke & Lewis designs, five of which are featured in the next few pages. Designed using durable materials and timeless finishes, these are built to suit your needs now and for years to come. Cooke & Lewis cabinets are made in Devon, using the finest

materials, including 100% FSC-approved sustainable wood. The doors are made using the latest production technology, and timber materials selected by hand in Italy. B&Q has included a deep wall cabinet to fit full-sized plates, adjustable shelving and a tall cabinet for extra storage space.

Simply decide which style within the family of Cooke & Lewis kitchens suits you and your lifestyle from Appleby, Carisbrooke, Chesterton, Raffello and Woburn. Then all that's left is to pick the appliances and the finishing touches.



'If white is too stark a colour choice for you, but you still want to keep things light, go for units in a classic grey or beige'

MICHELA COLLING,
STYLE EDITOR



▲ *Shaker chic*

The contemporary colour finish brings this traditional Shaker style up to date
Carisbrooke Cashmere,
from £2,132 for eight units*,
Cooke & Lewis at B&Q

Rounded off ▶

Curved units will add interest and soften the look of a kitchen
Carisbrooke Cashmere,
from £2,132 for eight units*,
Cooke & Lewis at B&Q



Clean up

A moulded sink gives a streamlined look, while a worktop with draining grooves is a smart option

COMPLETE YOUR KITCHEN

Pick the perfect finishing touches

Cool shade

Keep it simple with a plain white pendant

Tibbon white pendant ceiling light, £35, B&Q



Fantastic fake

Get the look of wood for less with this easy-to-install luxury vinyl click floor
White wash oak-effect luxury vinyl click flooring, £25 per sq m, B&Q



Hot choice

Eight cooking functions and a 57ltr capacity
Single multifunction oven CLSMO-60, £260, Cooke & Lewis range, B&Q



Swan song

Echo the curved cabinet with this sleek-looking tap
Saru pull-down tap, £98, B&Q



Make a CLASSIC CHOICE

Stick to a more traditional style with a solid-oak kitchen

The Chesterton Solid Oak Classic kitchen from Cooke & Lewis has doors made from solid oak that has been carefully chosen for its quality, sustainability and unique character. Going for these mid-toned wood units will give your kitchen a warm and welcoming feel, while the simple style makes it a classic look that won't date. As well as cabinet storage, the Chesterton Solid Oak Classic has the option of features such as an integrated plate rack and pull-out storage for bottles and jars.

Bring it up to date

While this kitchen is perfectly suited for a home decorated in a traditional style, it will also work well in a more contemporary interior. Simply team the wooden units with white worksurfaces, pale flooring and smart stainless-steel appliances to create a more modern feel. Finish with open shelving and statement lighting.



'If there's room in your kitchen, have an island fitted to provide extra cupboard space and more room for preparing food'

MICHELA COLLING, STYLE EDITOR



Natural finish

Each door is made from solid oak that's been hand-picked for its unique character
Chesterton Solid Oak Classic, from **£1,723** for eight units*,
 Cooke & Lewis at B&Q



Tough surface

Choose from a wide range of worktop colours to create the kitchen you want

COMPLETE YOUR KITCHEN

Pick the perfect finishing touches



Get the point

For a soft glow and ambience, try under-cabinet lighting

Olana LV fixed cabinet light, **£27** for three, B&Q



Fabulous floor

An easy-to-clean choice of tile

Antayla porcelain floor tile in grey (600mm sq), **£24** per sq m, B&Q

Luxury buy

Fill it up to have plenty of wine or other chilled drinks on hand for fantastic parties

18-bottle stainless-steel-effect wine cooler WC300, **£248**, **Cata range**, B&Q



Give your kitchen a MODERN LOOK

Team high-gloss units in an on-trend colour with stylish accessories for an urban-chic feel

Whether you want an unfussy kitchen with simple units or you fancy a modern design that won't date in the future, B&Q has a number of options, including the new Cooke & Lewis Raffello kitchen. Available in five different colours – Anthracite (shown), Aubergine, Cream, Red and White – this high-gloss range is the perfect choice for an urban home.

Dress it up

The Raffello Slab Anthracite high-gloss kitchen features flat-fronted doors and drawers, which you can team with the handle of your choice. In this dark-grey colourway, the units fit in well with the popular industrial trend. You can

decide to keep the look clean and uncluttered, with smart, streamlined, fitted appliances, dark worktops and minimal accessories, or you could make a real statement with a bold contrast, such as white flooring and worktops, and sleek city styling. Metallic accessories and seating, as well as black utensils, sink and knife block, will help create an eye-catching, urban-chic feel.

Add a bit of colour

If all that seems a bit stark for your tastes, add some warmth with brushed-copper effect lighting and chef-style copper cookware. Alternatively, you can mix and match the different-coloured unit fronts in the Raffello range for a unique-looking kitchen with a personal touch.



Stacks of style

Open shelving will provide more storage and will fit into the room's industrial feel

Five-shelf steel shelving unit, £45, B&Q



'Industrial style is a trend that's sticking around. Mix brilliant new buys with vintage finds to create a unique look'

MICHELA COLLING,
STYLE EDITOR

City sleek

Glossy grey units, a concrete-look floor and shiny copper accessories combine for a chic, urban look

Raffello high-gloss Anthracite slab kitchen, from £1,763 for eight units*, B&Q



COMPLETE YOUR KITCHEN

Pick the perfect finishing touches

Cool copper

A low-cost way of adding high-end style

Tezz brushed copper effect light shade, £18, Colours range, B&Q

*Get tough*

Create the perfect industrial vibe

Colours grey modern stone-effect luxury vinyl click tile flooring, £25 per sq m, B&Q

*Black magic*

Team this stylish matt black sink with a white worktop

Roso single bowl composite sink in Volcanic Black, £142, B&Q

*Pro style*

Go for industrial chic with this cool, curved design

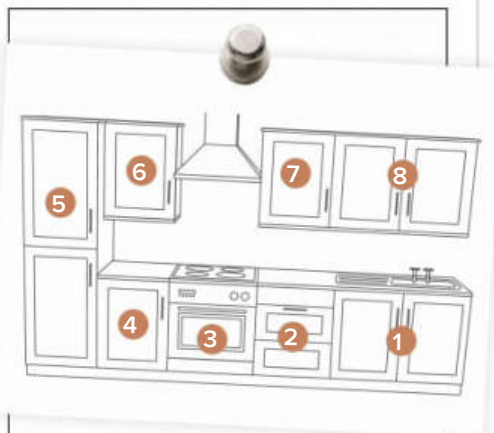
Tronto metallic black spring-neck tap, £78, Cooke & Lewis range, B&Q





Perfect planning

Make a wish list to work out your storage and socialising needs before designing your kitchen
Woburn framed kitchen, from £2,253 for eight units*,
 Cooke & Lewis at B&Q



PLAN THE BEST DESIGN

**Discover what's included in an eight-unit kitchen*

- 1 1,000mm base unit
- 2 500mm multi-drawer base unit
- 3 600mm built-under oven housing unit
- 4 500mm base unit
- 5 600mm larder unit
- 6 500mm wall unit
- 7 500mm wall unit
- 8 1,000mm base unit

ALSO INCLUDED

Base, wall and larder décor end panels; 38mm-thick L3m laminate worktop; cornice; light pelmet and continuous plinth; and handles. Cooke & Lewis kitchens include clad-on panels.

NOT INCLUDED

Oven, hob, sink and taps.

Create your ideal KITCHEN

Turn to B&Q's experts to create your dream room

Choosing a kitchen can be a daunting process. If you're stuck for inspiration and product ideas, B&Q's design expert consultants can help guide you through your project, starting with a free consultation to plan and personalise your dream kitchen.

Go online or in store

Using B&Q spaces – a new interactive online design tool that makes designing and project-managing a kitchen easier than ever before – a consultant will help you create your perfect kitchen in minutes, then work with you to refine the

space to suit your needs. To enjoy this service, go to diy.com/diy/design_ consultation to book an appointment, or pop in store, remembering to take your room's measurements before going for your consultation.

Have your kitchen fitted

Once you have designed and bought your kitchen, B&Q's Homefit Installation team can fit it for you. With more than 15 years' experience installing kitchens, the team provides a five-year workmanship guarantee, so you know you're in safe hands every step of the way.

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‘We wanted a chic wetroom’

Like the idea of a luxurious, spa-like space? Copy the Rodgers family and create an Italian-inspired wetroom

FOR WHERE TO BUY ITEMS SHOWN, TURN THE PAGE

Love their STYLE?

THE RODGERS' TRAVERTINE TILES ARE FROM STONE COLLECTION LONDON £. FOR SIMILAR, TRY TOPPS TILES' SANDELWOOD TRAVERTINE ££ OR FIRED EARTH'S OLD TUSCAN TRAVERTINE RANGE £££

Lustrous finish

The velvety looking Venetian polished plaster gives the room a sumptuous feel

BEFORE

Moving into their Arts and Crafts house seven years ago, Ruth and Paul Rodgers had big plans for the bathroom. 'It had been redesigned in the Eighties and, apart from being very old-fashioned, the woodwork was rotten, the shower was a dark, dank cubicle and there was an impractical three-quarter-size bath,' says Ruth.

The couple decided to dispense with the bath and, inspired by Italian design, made plans for a luxurious wetroom instead. Ruth had seen the finish she wanted for the walls in the lobby of an advertising company. 'Venetian polished plaster has a marble-like lustre that looks like crushed velvet and feels like glass,' she says. 'We chose a deep chocolate brown, which shows off the white basin and chrome fittings beautifully.'

To complement the polished plaster, the floor and shower walls were tiled with tumbled and sealed travertine in a mix of large squares and mosaics. 'Although it's very contemporary, it's got a rustic, Tuscan feel to it,' says Ruth. 'I feel like I'm on holiday every time I take a shower.'

WHAT IT COST

Shower.....	£677
Drainage gulley.....	£233
Basin.....	£350
Basin mixer.....	£125
Specialist plastering....	£2,700
Tiles.....	£300
Radiator.....	£100
Cabinet.....	£200
TOTAL.....	£4,685

TURN OVER TO FIND OUT HOW

Ruth and Paul created their new bathroom

Take the 60-SECOND TOUR**THE PROPERTY**

A five-bedroom, Arts and Crafts house in Highgate, north London.

WHO LIVES HERE

Ruth and Paul Rodgers, with their daughter, Georgie, 19. Ruth is a journalist and Paul works in radio.

WHAT THEY DID

The couple gutted the existing bathroom and had a room within

a room built, providing a seamless box in which to create a wetroom.

THE LOOK

Luxurious, with moody colours and rough and smooth textures.

LESSONS LEARNED

“We should have fitted a hand shower as well as an overhead one. It would have made cleaning the shower area a lot easier.”



THE LAYOUT The basin is on the left of the room, as is the shower, which is opposite the window and is zoned off from the basin by a glass screen



Rustic contrast
Ruth chose tumbled travertine tiles in warm, neutral shades to provide texture and soften the minimalist scheme



Fabulous fittings
The mirrored cabinet and sleek white sanitaryware add a touch of glamour



Cosy corner
A chrome heated towel rail is the only other fitting in the room, while a bentwood chair is a nod to vintage



How we did it

“To achieve a streamlined effect, our builders, MG Raffle, built a room within a room, lowering the ceiling and fitting a stud wall, behind which the lighting and plumbing are concealed. As there’s no shower tray, a subtle fall had to be built into the new floor to allow the water to run away. The shower screen provides an almost invisible divide between the wet and dry areas. Underfloor heating was installed before specialist plaster company Decor Bristol plastered the walls. The project cost around £3,000 and took about three weeks.”

BATHROOM SOURCEBOOK WHERE TO BUY

For a similar **shower head**, try the Raindance Air 180 with arm, £425, Hansgrohe range; for a similar **basin**, try the Zone Offset, £771; for a similar **basin mixer**, try the 112 wall mounted with plate, £822, Vola range; all CP Hart. Stainless steel channel **drain**, £233, Purus range; for a similar **shower screen**, try the Ostend fixed, £225; both Wetroomstore.com. For a similar **cabinet**, try the stainless steel, £69.97, Vasari range, Plumbworld. **Venetian plaster**, £100 per sq m, Decor Bristol. Travertine tumbled **tiles**, from £27 per sq m, Stone Collection London. For similar **mosaic tiles**, try the Travertine white, £85 per sq m, Topps Tiles. For a similar **radiator**, try the Basics 1110, £109, Bathstore

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‘We made it ultramodern’

Give your room sleek, contemporary style, like the Cunninghams did

FOR WHERE TO BUY ITEMS SHOWN, TURN THE PAGE



Black and white

The couple chose a monochrome scheme for a high-impact, modern look. A white poured-resin floor helps to create a sense of space

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STYLE?**

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WHAT IT COST

Bath.....	£2,400
Shower.....	£1,638
Basins.....	£2,400
Taps.....	£2,740
Wall tiles.....	£840
Flooring.....	£1,200
Loo.....	£570
Console unit.....	£800
Radiator.....	£500
Mirror.....	£1,100
TOTAL.....	£14,188

TURN OVER TO FIND OUT HOW
Sam and Peter created their new bathroom

BEFORE**Take the
60-SECOND TOUR****THE PROPERTY**

A new, five-bedroom detached house in Northampton, Northamptonshire, which the owners built themselves in 2011.

WHO LIVES HERE

Sam and Peter Cunningham, with their children, Zach, 14, and Grace, 12.

WHAT THEY DID

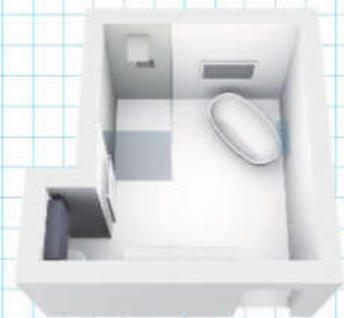
The couple spent 18 months building their house from scratch, taking the opportunity to create their ideal bedroom with an en-suite bathroom.

THE LOOK

Streamlined and minimalist, with statement tiling, curvy sanitaryware and plenty of storage space.

LESSONS LEARNED

“It's important to find a good designer who will visit your house and give you lots of ideas.”



THE LAYOUT The loo and a twin-basin vanity unit are to the left of the door. The bath is straight ahead, next to the walk-in shower in the corner

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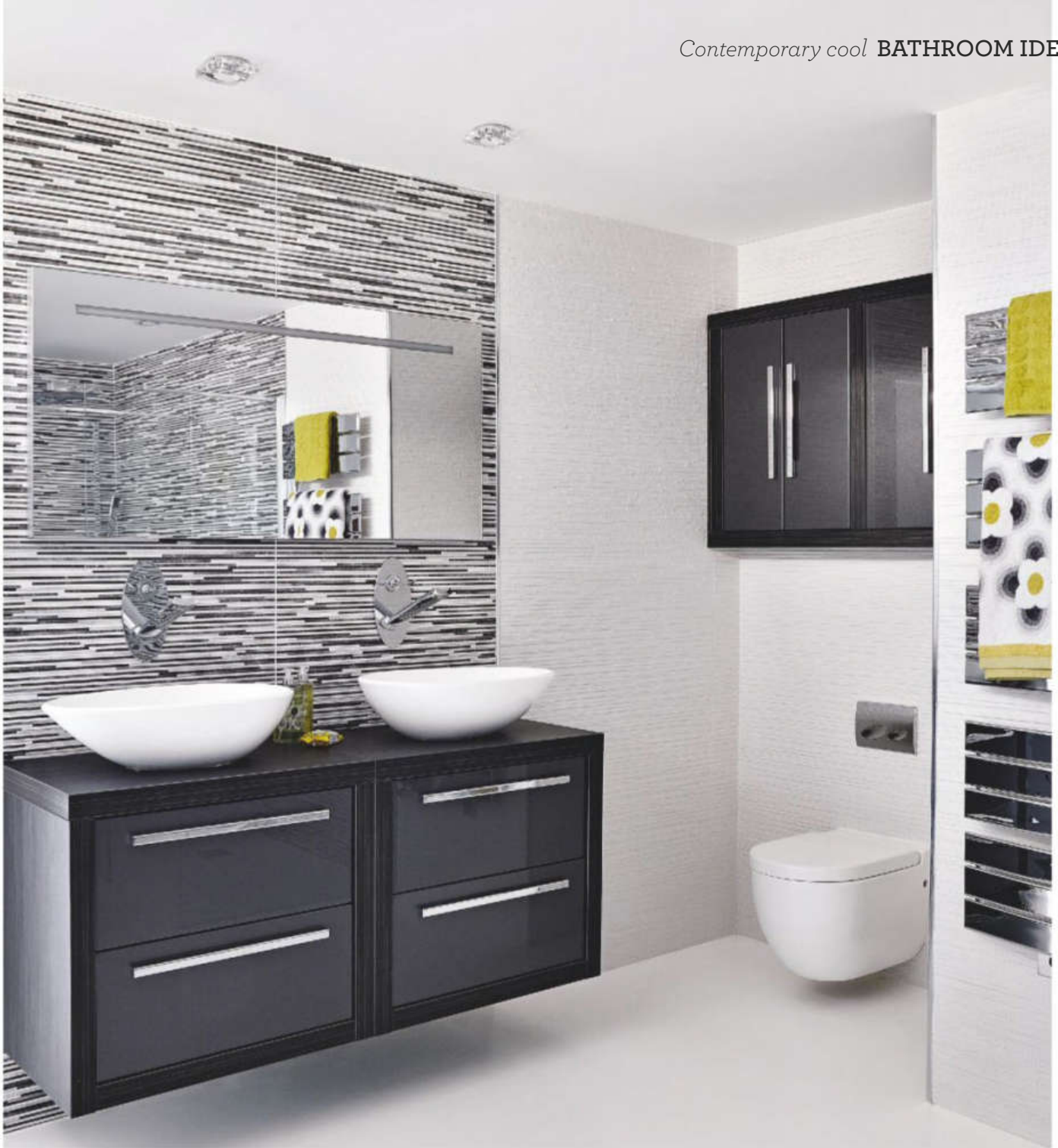
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For Sam and Peter Cunningham, creating their new en-suite bathroom was just a very small part of the bigger job of working on a self-build house – a project that they began in 2011. ‘We found a house with land to the side and decided to build the property we wanted,’ says Sam.

The new house presented the couple with the opportunity to create their ideal en-suite. ‘In our previous home, the bathroom was cramped with a useless shower,’ explains Sam. ‘This time we wanted a modern room with a stylish bath and a powerful shower.’

Other must-haves included two basins and a TV. ‘Having two basins stops us getting in

each other’s way,’ says Sam. ‘As for the TV, we love watching it when we have a bath.’

The couple came up with the basic design of the bathroom with the help of a local designer. ‘We chose the colour scheme ourselves – we wanted white and grey to match the tiles we’d chosen,’ says Sam. ‘We added accessories with touches of green, inspired by some Orla Kiely bedding we had. Luckily, we were able to get towels to match.’

The result is a smart space that looks like it belongs in a boutique hotel. ‘This room is a big success,’ says Sam. ‘We love the bath, the freestanding tap and the storage units above the loo. There’s not a thing we’d do differently if we had to start all over again.’ ➔

▲ *Neat solution*

The loo is cleverly tucked away in the corner of the room so that it’s the last thing you see when you enter the en suite. Above it, Sam had storage fitted to keep clutter at bay



Starting point

The monochrome Orla Kiely print was the original inspiration for the room's colour scheme. 'The shades we've used make the en suite a calm place to be,' says Sam



▲ **Simple touches**
Wall-hung taps and oval countertop basins fit in with the contemporary scheme



How we did it

“Knowing we wanted a modern bathroom was a good start, but we couldn't have faced actually planning the room without a designer. We decided to choose a local company called Goodey & Howell, where we were introduced to a brilliant designer. He put various layouts together for us so that we could choose. The building work was done by the company building the rest of the house, and we used the bathroom company's tiler. From start to finish, the room took a month to complete, and it cost around £6,000 to install.”

BATHROOM SOURCEBOOK WHERE TO BUY

Napoli **bath**, £2,400; Napoli **basins**, £1,200 each; all Victoria & Albert range; I line modular console **unit**, £800; **mirror**, £1,100; both Utopia range; basin **taps**, £525 each; **bath/shower mixer**, £1,690; **shower control and head**, £938; all Crosswater range; Melyn **shower screen**, £700; Jersey ceramic **wall tiles**, £60 per sq m, Porcelanosa range; Essence **towel radiator**, £500, Bauhaus range; **loo** and **flush plate**, £570; all Goodey & Howell. Poured resin **floor**, from £120 per sq m, Puur Floors. 22in **television**, £845, TileVision. For a similar **table**, try the Funky white, £49.95, Natural Living. For similar **bath towels**, try the Flower Abacus, £25 each, Orla Kiely

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With Christmas just around the corner, the race is on to get our homes spruced up and ready for visitors. Perhaps your kitchen floor is an eyesore, you'd like to redo a downstairs loo or an en suite isn't quite complete – whatever your plans, a visit to Topps Tiles will provide all the practical advice and inspiration you need to make improvements with confidence.

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With the biggest selection of quality tiles sourced from around the world, Topps Tiles is sure to have the perfect choice for

your project. Whether you're sure of the style you want or don't know where to start, it's worth trying the Tile Visualiser facility in store or at toppstiles.co.uk. Simply pick a room that looks as close in layout to your own and you'll be able to see how more than 1,300 styles of tile might look in situ. It's a great way to get a feel for the scale and impact of different designs, from large-format neutrals to patchworks of pattern.

If you think imitation stone and wood tiles are unconvincing, check out the ones at Topps Tiles. New technology is making it possible to reproduce the texture and

look of natural materials more realistically than ever. Both the Silvabirch range and Amazon-inspired Kapok porcelain tile, for example, allow you to bring a forest feel into your bathroom, where natural wood is not usually recommended.

Visit your nearest store

Topps Tiles' friendly in-store team can give you guidance on every aspect of your interior project, right down to what tools and grout colour to use with your tiles. You'll also find exciting new displays and can save up to a third on selected tiles in the Topps Tiles autumn promotion.



'Make new tiles feel extra special with underfloor heating – the Warmup under-tile heating systems available at Topps Tiles have a lifetime guarantee'

AMY CUTMORE,
TECHNOLOGY EDITOR



Hall of fame

Make an entrance with this intricate pattern
FS York tiles, £67.85 per sq m, Topps Tiles



Very Moorish

Add an exotic feel with these ornate beauties
FS Salisbury tiles, £67.85 per sq m, Topps Tiles

Fab fake

Looks exactly like wood
Alpine Shimmer tiles, £92.23 per sq m, Silvabirch range, Topps Tiles



STYLE FILE

Discover the three key looks we love this season

■ **WALK THE PLANK** Long floorboard-style tiles are big news this autumn, enhancing the rustic feel of wood-effect porcelains.

■ **TRY FAUX STONE** The Regional Reflections ceramic tiles mimic quarried stones, such as riven slate and sandstone, to stunning effect.

■ **PICK A BOLD PATTERN** Colourful, intricately decorated tiles are huge right now, mixing influences from all over the globe.



On board

Try mixing the three colourways
Nayara Polished, £69.97 per sq m, Topps Tiles

Rock star
Inspired by limestone
Regional Reflections Ashington, £59.99 per sq m, Topps Tiles



Easy mix

Each single tile has four motifs
Stamford Tile, £67.60 per sq m, Topps Tiles

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Simple Solutions

MAKE AND GIVE PICKLES

Crunchy pickles are a store-cupboard essential at Christmas. Beautifully presented, they make a thoughtful, inexpensive gift that doesn't require skill in the kitchen

Pickles are perfect for spicing up leftovers, as part of a buffet or just as a late-night snack snaffled straight from the jar. Simple to make, you can eat them straight away, but they're even tastier if left to mature for a couple of weeks.

SPEEDY PICKLING VINEGAR

Make this all-purpose pickling liquid first, then use it as a base for the other recipes. This makes 800ml and the ingredients cost around £4.

- 1 Put the following ingredients in a large stainless-steel pan: 500g granulated sugar; 350ml cider vinegar; 350ml white wine vinegar; 10g fresh root ginger (in chunks); zest of 1 large orange; 2 bay leaves; 1tbsp whole allspice berries; 1 cinnamon stick, and 1tsp cloves.
- 2 Stir well with a wooden spoon until all the sugar has dissolved.
- 3 Put on a high heat and simmer for five minutes, stirring. Leave to cool.
- 4 Using a sieve, a jelly bag or muslin in a funnel, strain out the spices.

PICKLED ONION RINGS

Easier to serve – and eat – than whole pickled onions, you can lift the slices out of the jar with a fork

and add them to sandwiches. Makes two 1ltr jars and costs around £5.

- 1 Slice 1kg peeled brown onions into fine rings, put them in a sieve and pour a kettleful of boiling water over them to blanch them slightly. Rinse them in cold water, give them a gentle shake and leave to dry for 10 minutes.
- 2 Divide the onion rings between the sterilised jars. Stir 1tbsp sea salt into the pre-made pickling vinegar (left) until dissolved, then pour the liquid into the jars to 2cm below the rim. Seal the jars and label them.

TIP Use red rather than brown onions for a milder result, or throw in a few dried red chillies for a spicier version.

PICKLED RED CABBAGE

Sweet and full of flavour, this is the perfect partner for cold turkey and winter stews. This recipe makes two 1ltr jars and costs around £5.

- 1 Sprinkle 1kg shredded red cabbage with 2tbsp sea salt and leave it in a colander over the sink for an hour (the purplish-blue water it releases will stain, so take care).
- 2 Rinse the cabbage in cold water and let it drip-dry for 10 minutes.
- 3 Pack the cabbage into sterilised jars, using a spoon to compress it if

necessary, then add the pickling vinegar to within 2cm of the rim. Seal the jars and label them.

TIP Add a splash of red wine and 1tbsp yellow mustard seeds to the cabbage for a flavour boost.

PICKLED PEARS

Delicious served with strong blue cheese, such as Stilton. Makes one 1ltr jar and costs around £6.

- 1 Peel 1kg conference pears and cut them into quarters, lengthways, then remove the cores and stems.
 - 2 Place the cut pears in a stainless-steel saucepan and cover with the pickling vinegar. Bring to the boil.
 - 3 After 10 minutes' cooking, remove the pears using a slotted spoon and place them in a sterilised jar.
 - 4 Simmer the vinegar for 10 minutes to reduce, then turn the heat off. Allow the vinegar to cool slightly, then pour it over the pears leaving a 2cm gap at the top of the jar. Seal and label.
- TIP** Gently push a few star anise into the jar, keeping them close to the sides so they are visible through the glass.

*Note...Once home-made pickles have been opened, store them in the fridge and eat them within one month.

5 WAYS TO PRESENT YOUR PICKLES



VINTAGE STYLE
Ball Mason jar (490ml),
£11.99 for six, Lakeland



LABELLED WITH LOVE
Hemsmak adhesive
labels, £1.50 for 32, Ikea



RIBBONS AND BOWS
'Merry Christmas' ribbon,
£1 for a L3m roll, Wilko



CRATE IDEA
Two jar gift crate, £6.99,
Abraxas Cookshop



READY TO EAT
Olive wood pickle fork,
£2.65, Period Features

TRY THESE VARIATIONS

✱ **COURGETTES** Follow the red-cabbage method, adding 1tsp turmeric to the jar. These go well with crumbly Cheddar cheese.

✱ **GARLIC CLOVES** Peel the cloves but don't slice them, leave them whole, then follow the onion-rings method. Pickled garlic is delicious as a topping on pizza.

✱ **CUCUMBER** Use a potato peeler to cut thin, delicate ribbons, then follow the red-cabbage method. It's tasty with smoked salmon and some fresh dill.

✱ **CARROTS** Cut carrots into matchsticks, add strips of fresh ginger and follow the onion-rings method. Try adding to stir-fries.

✱ **Tip** To sterilise jars, wash them in hot, soapy water, rinse them, then place on their sides (without the rubber seals) in the oven at 120°C for 20 minutes



Get pickling, then give the jars to friends and family

Disc seal 1ltr Kilner jars, £8.99 for three; clip-top 500ml Kilner preserving jars, £8.99 for three; swing-top presentation bottle, £3.48; all Lakeland



WATCH OUR CHRISTMAS IDEAS VIDEOS AT
housetohome.co.uk/christmas

GET THE HOUSE CHRISTMAS-READY

Your head might be full of gift lists and school concert dates, but it's worth checking off these basics so you enjoy a smooth-running yule

Use this check list in the run-up to Christmas to get your home shipshape and fully functional before your first guests arrive.

KITCHEN/DINING ROOM

- ✦ Do a stocktake of pots and pans to check you have everything you need to cook Christmas dinner.
- ✦ Work out the size of roasting tin you'll need for the turkey, and that it will all fit in the oven.
- ✦ Audit crockery, cutlery and glasses.
- ✦ Dig out and launder seasonal table linen, so that it's ready to use.
- ✦ Remove anything past its best from the fridge and give the fridge a good clean in preparation for refilling it.
- ✦ Check that you have enough tinfoil and clingfilm to cope with leftovers.
- ✦ Stock up on basics, such as tea, coffee, sugar, cereal and condiments – the stuff that gets forgotten when you're focused on the turkey and pud.

UTILITY ROOM

- ✦ Restock your cleaning products, not forgetting washing powder, dishwasher tablets, rinse aid and salt.
- ✦ Buy extra kitchen paper and loo roll.
- ✦ Invest in an all-purpose stain remover (try White Wonder cleaning cream, £4.97, Lakeland) so you'll be ready for any spilling mishaps.

- ✦ Buy reserves of essentials, such as light bulbs, candles, tealights, batteries, pet food and cat litter.

HALLWAY/COAT CUPBOARD

- ✦ Declutter and create a space for guests' coats, shoes and muddy boots.
- ✦ Hunt down umbrellas and keep them handy for guests when they're going to and from their cars.

LIVING ROOM

- ✦ Give your living space a deep clean before putting up Christmas decorations and the tree – it's harder to dust once everything's in place.
- ✦ Put away ornaments to create surface space for festive decorations and for guests to put their drinks down. Do you need more coasters?
- ✦ Give upholstery and cushions a good vacuum, getting rid of any pet hair and crumbs.
- ✦ Where will everyone sit? Beg, borrow or steal extra chairs, or use pouffes and beanbags as a stopgap.
- ✦ Make the room smell nice – wash pet beds to get rid of that doggy smell and burn some scented candles.

BATHROOM

- ✦ Give the bathroom a thorough deep clean and declutter shelves to make space for holiday guests' things.



Sleigh bed, £999; Penguin double duvet set, £40; throws, from £60 each; cushions, from £16 each; all BHS

- ✦ Make sure you have enough towels to go round for everyone, and get in basic toiletries, such as toothbrushes or shampoo, for guests who might have forgotten to pack their own.
- ✦ Check your first-aid kit and restock the essentials – especially painkillers, indigestion and diarrhoea remedies, and treatments for colds and flu.
- ✦ Almost every bathroom has a quirk, like a stiff tap or a dodgy loo flush, so get it fixed before your guests arrive.
- ✦ Put a nightlight in the bathroom so guests don't have to switch a light on to visit the loo in the dead of night.

3 OF THE BEST TABLEWARE BASICS



PLATE UP

Mix in with your best set
White porcelain, £30 for a 12-piece set, Sainsbury's



CLASSIC CUTLERY

Set a table in style
Columbus cutlery, £10 for a 16-piece set, Wilko



SIMPLE GLASSES

In case you need extras
Timeless Classic glasses, £5 for four, Tesco Direct

GUEST BEDROOM

- ✦ Tidy and clean the room, making space for guests' belongings.
- ✦ Put hooks on the back of the door to create extra hanging space.
- ✦ Make the bed up before they arrive and cover it to keep it dust-free.
- ✦ Tell guests where to find pillows, blankets and hot-water bottles.
- ✦ Check all light bulbs are working.
- ✦ Put out a travel hairdryer.
- ✦ Supply a few books or magazines in the room for bedtime reading.

* *Tip* Give everyone a job, such as putting rubbish out or cleaning empty glasses and mugs, so you have less to do



Rethink your festive dining furniture

Extending dining table, £350; dining chairs, £180 for two; both Loxley Grey range; accessories from a selection; all Dunelm



WATCH OUR CHRISTMAS IDEAS VIDEOS AT
housetohome.co.uk/christmas



Tempting table
Give your table a festive makeover to create a magical meal that all the family will remember



Soft cushions and throws will make lovely gifts

MAKE SHOPPING EASY THIS YEAR

Take the hassle out of gift buying

■ FIND GIFT INSPIRATION

Houseology is brimming with festive inspiration, with a gift guide that's arranged to ensure finding the perfect present is as easy as possible, plus everything can be gift wrapped, too.

■ ENJOY FREE DELIVERY

Houseology offers free UK delivery on goods that cost more than £70 (excluding rugs, furniture, lighting or mirrors) and it has a no-quibble return policy.

Entertain in style THIS CHRISTMAS

Transform your home for the festivities with gorgeous seasonal buys from Houseology

Creating the perfect atmosphere for friends and family to enjoy at Christmas is part of the fun of the festive season. Be it decorating the tree, setting a beautiful table or decking out the hallway, dressing your home for the celebrations is an event that can be enjoyed by all the family and will be appreciated by your holiday visitors.

Decorate in style

If you're searching for decorating inspiration, Houseology has plenty of homeware buys and Christmas decorations to help you create the festive look you want, be it classic and traditional, Scandi or contemporary. In addition to exclusive furniture, lighting and accessories, you can

find beautiful crockery, cutlery, glasses and serveware designed to help you make your Christmas table a sight to behold and worthy of a fabulous festive feast.

Buy perfect presents

As well as everything you need to transform your home, Houseology is also the place to look for beautiful gifting ideas that you won't find anywhere else. Browse online to find presents designed to put a smile on the face of whoever you plan to surprise.

With products from more than 80 top brands available, there's a wide range to choose from, whether you are looking for something for Grandma, Mum or Dad. It's also ideal for creating your own Christmas wish list to hand out to friends and family.



Layer white china with red and white linens for a Scandi vibe

Enjoy 10% off online

Houseology is offering Ideal Home readers 10% off orders placed online until 31 December 2015, using the code HH210 at the checkout. For terms and conditions, visit houseology.com

For more information...

DISCOVER MORE ABOUT HOUSEOLOGY AND ITS PRODUCTS AT HOUSEOLOGY.COM

Houseology



Tackle a task... Make lighting sparkle

Your light fittings gather dust and dirt like the rest of your home, so give them a good clean to ensure they shine brightly to create the perfect ambience

ESSENTIAL KIT

- Kitchen towel
- Microfibre cloths
- Newspaper/towels
- Feather duster
- Soft-brush vacuum attachment
- Glass cleaner

1 GET THE BASICS RIGHT

Always ensure a light is switched off before cleaning it – unplug from the wall socket for a lamp and turn off ceiling lights at the fuse box. Let bulbs cool before removing them.

2 DEAL WITH PENDANTS

Remove glass and plastic shades, and soak in warm, soapy water for 10 minutes. Wash gently, rinse and dry with a soft microfibre cloth. Polish the fitting and bulb with a dry microfibre cloth.

3 CLEAN CHANDELIERS

Place newspaper or towels under the chandelier and stuff some kitchen towel into the sockets to keep them dry. Dust the fitting, spray with glass cleaner, then leave to drip-dry.

4 TACKLE LAMPSHADES

Wipe beaded shades with a soft, damp cloth. Wash glass and plastic ones in warm, soapy water, rinse and then dry. Vacuum fabric and cane shades with a soft attachment. Wipe metal ones with a soft, damp cloth, then polish dry. Silk and delicate fabric ones will need professional cleaning.

5 FOCUS ON SPOTLIGHTS

Remove lenses and covers, and place in warm, soapy water. Scrub the dirt off, then dry with a soft microfibre cloth.

Help light reflect off sparkling decorations by cleaning your fittings



TOP TRICKS TO Efficient lighting

1

As you clean the fittings, check for breaks, and get them repaired if needs be

2

Never use a damp cloth to clean light bulbs, as it can damage them

3

Is there a fitting you can't dismantle? Get advice

4

Save energy by swapping old standard bulbs for energy-saving ones, which are measured in lumens. The new conversions are:
 25W = 220+ lumens,
 40W = 400+ lumens,
 60W = 700+ lumens,
 100W = 1300+ lumens

3 of the best **TOOLS FOR THE JOB**

Keep your lights shining brightly with these useful buys



Reach out
 Get to high fittings with an extendable duster
 Telescopic feather duster, Perigot range, John Lewis



Crystal clear
 A spray-on cleaner is vital if you want sparkly chandeliers
 Mint glass cleaning spray, Method



Soft touch
 Gently remove dust from lampshades with a handy vacuum attachment
 Soft dusting brush, Dyson



The Perfect Gift This Christmas

Treat yourself or a loved one to a place on KLC My Design School

Design Your Own Home 15 February – 18 March 2016

My Design School at KLC is an exciting online interior design course that offers a new, effortless way to learn, enabling you to gain design inspiration at times to suit you.

Engaging, immersive and highly enjoyable, this course makes the perfect gift for a friend or loved one. Our course tutor and special guest experts guide students through their interiors project, while a welcoming online community allows for

the sharing of ideas with fellow course students.

Design Your Own Home shows students how professional stylists work, while helping them develop their personal style.

Students will be taken through the design process from initial concepts to a completed scheme. Subjects covered include colour, textiles, lighting, accessories, planning and sourcing.

ABOUT KLC SCHOOL OF DESIGN

KLC School of Design is world renowned for the quality of its Interior Design training, offering a range of qualifications and flexible study methods for over 30 years.

**My
Design
School**

at KLC

Course costs £199 when you book using code IH1115, saving £200*
BOOK NOW Visit klc.co.uk or call 020 7376 3377

*Course RRP £399. Offer ends 3rd January 2016.

IN ASSOCIATION WITH **Ideal Home**

Try something new...

MIX A CLASSIC COCKTAIL

You can leave the fancy stuff to bartenders, but here are three basic cocktails everyone can learn to make

FOR WHERE TO BUY ITEMS SHOWN, TURN TO OUR SHOPPING DIRECTORY

Want to treat your party guests to a sophisticated tippie this holiday season? Frankie Snobel, mixologist and founder of cocktail company Tipplesworth, shares step-by-step instructions of how to make three delicious classics. All of these recipes make one cocktail.

1 CLASSIC MARTINI

There are many claims on the invention of James Bond's favourite tippie. Also referred to as a martinez or a martine in the past, the name 'martini' stuck in the 20th century, and this is what we all now call the classic combination of gin and dry vermouth.

You will need

■ Martini glass ■ Ice ■ 50ml Sipsmith London dry gin ■ 10ml (2 barspoons/teaspoons) Blackdown Silverbirch vermouth ■ Strainer ■ 2 olives ■ Cocktail sticks

How to make it

1 Chill the glass with some ice. 2 Pour the gin and vermouth into another glass. Stir for 45 seconds to ensure it's mixed but not agitated. 3 Empty the ice out of the martini glass and strain the gin mixture into it. 4 Pierce a

couple of olives with a cocktail stick and pop into your martini.

2 MARGARITA

The true origin of this famous citrus-flavoured cocktail with a kick isn't known, but it was definitely born in Mexico and started showing up in bars worldwide in the Thirties.

You will need

■ Slice of lime, 25ml freshly squeezed lime juice, plus a lime wedge ■ Glass tumbler ■ Sea salt ■ Ice ■ 50ml Ocho Blanco tequila ■ 25ml Merlet triple sec ■ 5ml (1 barspoon/teaspoon) agave syrup ■ Cocktail shaker

How to make it

1 Using a slice of lime, wet the rim of the glass, then roll its outer edge into sea salt. Fill the glass with ice. 2 Pour the tequila, triple sec, lime juice and syrup into a cocktail shaker, add ice and shake well. 3 Strain the mixture into your tumbler and garnish with the wedge of lime.

3 BLOODY MARY

It is said that, when vodka arrived in Paris in the Twenties, Fernand 'Pete' Petiot, bartender at Harry's New York



Bar in the French capital, found it rather tasteless, so he decided to mix it with tinned tomato juice and seasoning. According to various sources the drink was named 'Bloody Mary' either after Mary Tudor's bloody reign or after a barmaid at a notorious Chicago saloon called Bucket of Blood.

You will need

■ Slice of lemon and 12.5ml freshly squeezed lemon juice ■ Collins glass (a tall tumbler) ■ Celery salt ■ Ice ■ 50ml Chase English potato vodka ■ 100ml pressed tomato juice ■ 4 dashes of Tabasco sauce ■ 4 dashes of Worcestershire sauce ■ Stick of celery

How to make it

1 Using the slice of lemon, wet the rim of the glass, then roll the glass's outer edge in a dish of celery salt and fill with ice. 2 Pour in all the rest of the ingredients, plus a pinch of celery salt, and stir well. If you fancy a spicier kick, grate ½tsp of fresh horseradish root into it. 3 Garnish with celery.

SHOP FOR THE ESSENTIAL KIT



WELL MEASURED

Gold plated cocktail measure, £12.50, Oliver Bonas



MASH IT UP

Bar craft cocktail muddler, £8.99, Kitchen Craft



ALL IN ONE

Mini Martini kit, £19.90, Tipplesworth range, John Lewis



SHAKE IT

Stainless steel cocktail set, £21.99, Lakeland



Sweet sensation
Enjoy an afternoon treat
with a delicious infusion of
apple and elderflower

Take a moment JUST FOR YOU

*Sit back, relax and recharge with the delicious
new range of teas from Whittard of Chelsea*

Amid the flurry of shopping for gifts, flitting between parties and decking the house in its festive finery, December can all too easily become one of the most tiring months of the year. Thankfully, Whittard of Chelsea has launched The Century of Tea, a collection of 100 teas to help you recover from the Christmas bustle, and revel in a quiet moment with a soothing brew.

Discover a new favourite

Put a spring in your morning step with the delicious Tippy Assam – its complex flavour makes it a perfect alternative to traditional English Breakfast. Later in the day, bring a little ceremony to your afternoon cuppa

with Whittard's delicate Jasmine tea. This fragrant brew is made by layering jasmine on green tea leaves overnight, then refreshing the flowers every morning for a unique and authentic taste. Finally, wind down on a chilly winter evening with the Apple and Elderflower variety, perfumed with liquorice, rosehip, hibiscus and rose petals.

Make time for tea

Having sourced tea since 1886, Whittard is famed for its expert knowledge, rich history and unique, hand-crafted blends. So whether you're partial to a timeless classic or fancy trying something new, there's never been a better time to escape the festive fanfare and delight in a calming cup of tea.

MAKE TIME FOR A CUPPA

*Let these teas get
you through the day*



Tippy Assam

Rise and shine with this rich choice that's great for breakfast
Tippy Assam loose leaf tea, from £6, Whittard

Jasmine

Indulge in the afternoon with these gently fragranced large leaf tea pyramids

Jasmine tea loose leaf pyramids, £6, Whittard



Apple & Elderflower

Unwind with a delicate, caffeine free option as the evening draws in
Apple and Elderflower tea, £7 for a bottle, Whittard

OUR CHRISTMAS GIFT TO YOU

Take this page to your nearest Whittard store for a free gift. Simply pick up a caddy and choose a tea from our Signature collection. **CODE: 15121**

For full terms and conditions, visit whittard.co.uk



For more information...

FOR DETAILS OF
THE LATEST TEA
RANGES AND
YOUR NEAREST
STORE, VISIT
WHITTARD.CO.UK



In the KITCHEN

This month, we pick great foodie gifts, try a recipe for honeycomb, indulge in delicious panettone and compare smoked salmon. Roll on Christmas...

FOR WHERE TO BUY ITEMS SHOWN, TURN TO OUR SHOPPING DIRECTORY

To-do list for DECEMBER

EAT a slice of Classic Gran Galup panettone, £16.90 for 1kg, Natoora. It's light and fluffy, and makes a delicious alternative to rich fruit cake.

DRINK Les Pionniers NV Champagne, £16.99, The Co-operative. Made by Piper Heidsieck Champagne house, it's a regular award-winner.

TREAT someone to two new Little Leon books – *Sweet Treats* and *Lunchbox* (£6.99 each, Conran), from Leon. They'll be great stocking fillers for a foodie.

Clementines will add the taste and smell of Christmas to any dish – try adding their juice to a glass of fizz or grate the zest into cranberry sauce. For recipes, visit goodtoknow.co.uk

Try a new taste...

HONEYCOMB

Also known as hokey-pokey or cinder toffee, honeycomb is crunchy, bubbly textured toffee. Crumble it over ice cream for a delicious topping, or give chunks of it as a gift – simply pop a few plain or chocolate-dipped pieces into vintage tins or clear cellophane bags tied with ribbon.

HOW TO MAKE Grease a baking sheet with vegetable oil. Place 75g caster sugar in a pan with 2tbsp golden syrup. Warm over a low heat, stirring, until the sugar has dissolved. Increase the heat and boil until the mixture turns golden – don't let it get too dark or the honeycomb will taste bitter. Remove the pan from the heat, quickly whisk in 2tsp bicarbonate of soda (the mixture will bubble up) and immediately pour it onto the oiled tray. Allow to cool and set before breaking into pieces. Store in an airtight container.



Honeycomb is quick and easy to make – use it in a dessert or give as a gift

3 of the best FLAVOURED SMOKED SALMON

Herby twist

Marinated in a Russian recipe of beetroot and dill

Romanov smoked Scottish salmon (180g), Bleiker's Smokehouse



£7.50

£4.99



Winter spices

Cured with cloves, cinnamon, ginger, allspice, lemon, orange and port

Christmas spiced Scottish smoked salmon (100g), Waitrose



£9.50

Taste of the sea
Award-winning Irish organic salmon sprinkled with seaweed flakes

Cold smoked organic salmon with seaweed (160g), Burren Smokehouse

LOOK WHAT WE FOUND!

Take your pick from a range of gorgeous hampers filled with nuts, dried fruit, chocolate, honey and coffee

Ready-made or bespoke hampers, Carpo



IDEAL GREAT DEAL

Open festive booze with a fun bird-shaped corkscrew

£29.95



Parrot power

Tactile, sturdy and pocket-sized, this is made from plastic and cast aluminium

Parrot sommelier corkscrew, Alessi range, John Lewis

£14.99



Exotic cockatoo

Practical and easy to use in ombré-shaded brushed aluminium

Corkatoo corkscrew, TheLittleBoysRoom range, Notonthehighstreet.com



Clean the toughest food first time.



Removes grease*
from your filter.



*For limescale removal use Fairy dishwasher cleaner.

LOVES THE
IMPOSSIBLE



Make a traditional CHRISTMAS LUNCH

'Tis the season to pull out all the stops and serve a delicious festive feast that's packed with flavour

Menu

ALL RECIPES SERVE 6

STARTER

Mushroom toasties

MAINS

Roast turkey with
polenta stuffing

Beetroot, potato
and Taleggio gratin

SIDES

Chipolatas with bacon

Roasted carrots
and parsnips

Perfect roast potatoes

Sautéed sprouts,
sugar snaps and beans

Cranberry sauce

DESSERT

Extra-fruity
Christmas pudding

Serve friends and family a succulent turkey with all the trimmings

Roast turkey with polenta stuffing

TAKES 10MIN, PLUS UP TO 4HR IN THE OVEN AND UP TO 1HR RESTING

■ 50g butter ■ 4.5-5.5kg turkey
■ 500g sausagemeat ■ 3tbsp chopped parsley ■ ½tsp chopped thyme
■ ½tsp chopped sage ■ 1tsp lemon juice ■ 1tsp finely grated lemon zest
■ 50g polenta ■ 2tbsp cranberry sauce ■ 250ml white wine ■ Bay leaves and sprigs of thyme, to garnish
FOR THE GRAVY ■ 3tbsp plain flour
■ 4tbsp brandy ■ 850ml turkey or vegetable stock

1 Preheat the oven to 200°C/400°F/Gas 6. Rub the butter all over the turkey and season well with salt and freshly ground black pepper. Combine the sausagemeat, parsley, thyme, sage, lemon juice and zest, polenta and cranberry sauce. Season with salt and black pepper, then stuff inside the neck cavity of the bird, saving any that is left over to make stuffing balls (cook these later with the bacon-wrapped chipolatas, below right).

2 Place the turkey in a roasting tin and put in the oven for 20min, then turn down the heat to 180°C/350°F/Gas 4. Pour in the white wine and 200ml water, then roast, covered with foil, for 40min per kg, basting occasionally. The turkey is cooked when a meat thermometer reads 75°C, or the juices run clear when a metal skewer is inserted into the thickest part of the thigh.

3 Remove the turkey from the oven and set aside on a platter to rest in a warm place, loosely covered in foil, for up to 1hr. Strain the pan juices into a jug. Leave to cool while the turkey is resting, so the fat rises to the top.

4 Skim off 3tbsp fat and put it in the tin with the flour. Cook over a very low heat for 2min, stirring. Slowly add the brandy and stock to the tin, whisking until smooth. Skim the remaining fat off the turkey juices in the jug. Stir the juices into the gravy. Bring to the boil and simmer for 2-3min until thickened. Season with salt and pepper to taste. Pour into a warm gravy boat.

5 To serve the turkey, garnish it with bay leaves and sprigs of thyme.

Mushroom toasties

TAKES 15MIN

■ 1tbsp sunflower oil ■ 25g butter
■ 750g mixed mushrooms, sliced
■ 2 garlic cloves, crushed
■ 4 thyme stalks, leaves picked
■ 4tbsp dry sherry ■ 1 ciabatta loaf, cut into 12 slices
■ Olive oil, for brushing
■ 50g wild rocket ■ 30g mature Cheddar, shaved
■ Balsamic vinegar, for drizzling

1 Heat half the sunflower oil and half the butter in a pan, add half the mushrooms and cook on a high heat

for 5min until golden. Remove to a plate and repeat with the remaining oil, butter and mushrooms. Put all the cooked mushrooms back in the pan and add the garlic, thyme and sherry. Simmer for a few min until the alcohol has cooked off.

2 Brush the slices of bread with olive oil on both sides, and grill for a few min on each side. Place two slices on each serving plate. Top with the mushrooms, rocket and cheese, and drizzle on balsamic vinegar to serve.



For a good mixture of mushrooms, try using oyster, chestnut and portobello varieties

Chipolatas with bacon

TAKES 5MIN PLUS 30MIN IN THE OVEN

■ 12 streaky bacon rashers
■ 12 chipolatas

1 Wrap a bacon rasher around each chipolata, tucking the ends of the rasher in to prevent it coming loose.

2 Place the wrapped chipolatas in a roasting tin lined with greaseproof paper. If you have made stuffing balls,

place them in the tin now as well. Once the turkey has come out of the oven, turn the heat up to 200°C/400°F/Gas 6, then cover the chipolata tin with foil and place in the oven.

3 After 10min remove the foil. After another 10min, turn the sausages and stuffing balls. Cook for a further 10min until cooked through.

30
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Beetroot, potato & Taleggio gratin

TAKES 20MIN PLUS 1HR 10MIN IN THE OVEN

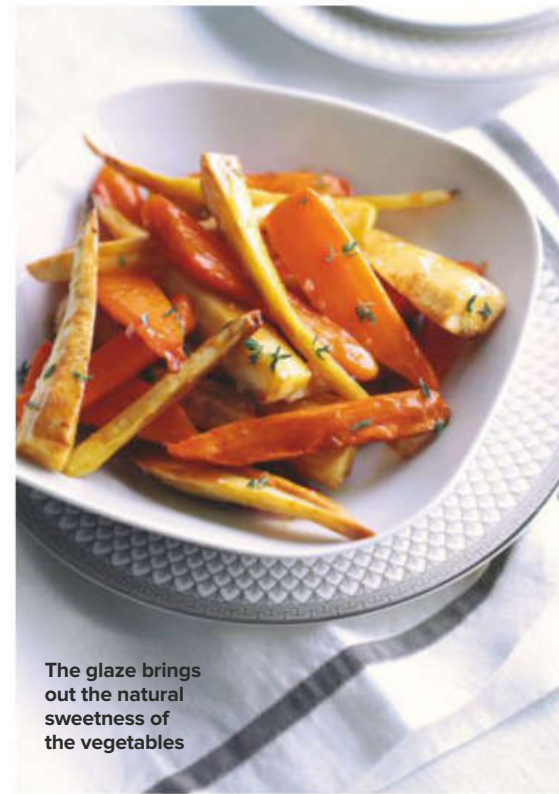
■ 600g waxy potatoes, peeled and very thinly sliced ■ 1 garlic clove, finely chopped ■ 6 thyme stalks, leaves picked ■ 300g fresh beetroot, scrubbed and thinly sliced ■ 250ml crème fraîche ■ 250ml milk ■ 5tbsp fresh white breadcrumbs ■ 100g Taleggio cheese, diced ■ 30g Parmesan, finely grated ■ 35g butter, softened

1 Bring a pan of salted water to the boil and add the potato slices. As soon as the water returns to the boil, drain the potatoes. Refresh under cold water, drain again and spread out to dry on kitchen paper or on a clean tea towel.

2 Preheat the oven to 180°C/350°F/Gas 4. Sprinkle the garlic and a little thyme into a greased 20cm x 30cm gratin dish. Arrange half of the potato slices, overlapping, in the dish and season well. Cover with the beetroot and a little more thyme.

3 Mix the crème fraîche and milk, pour half over the beetroot, then season. Top with another layer of potato and pour over the remaining milk mixture.

4 Mix the breadcrumbs, remaining thyme and the two cheeses. Sprinkle over the top of the dish and dot with butter. Bake for 1hr 10min, until the gratin is golden brown, and the cream bubbling up around the edges.



The glaze brings out the natural sweetness of the vegetables



You could also make this to have on Boxing Day with leftover turkey

Roasted carrots & parsnips

TAKES 45MIN

■ 500g carrots, halved or quartered lengthways ■ 500g parsnips, halved or quartered lengthways ■ 2tbsp vegetable oil ■ 6 thyme stalks, leaves picked, plus extra to garnish ■ 25g butter ■ 25g sugar

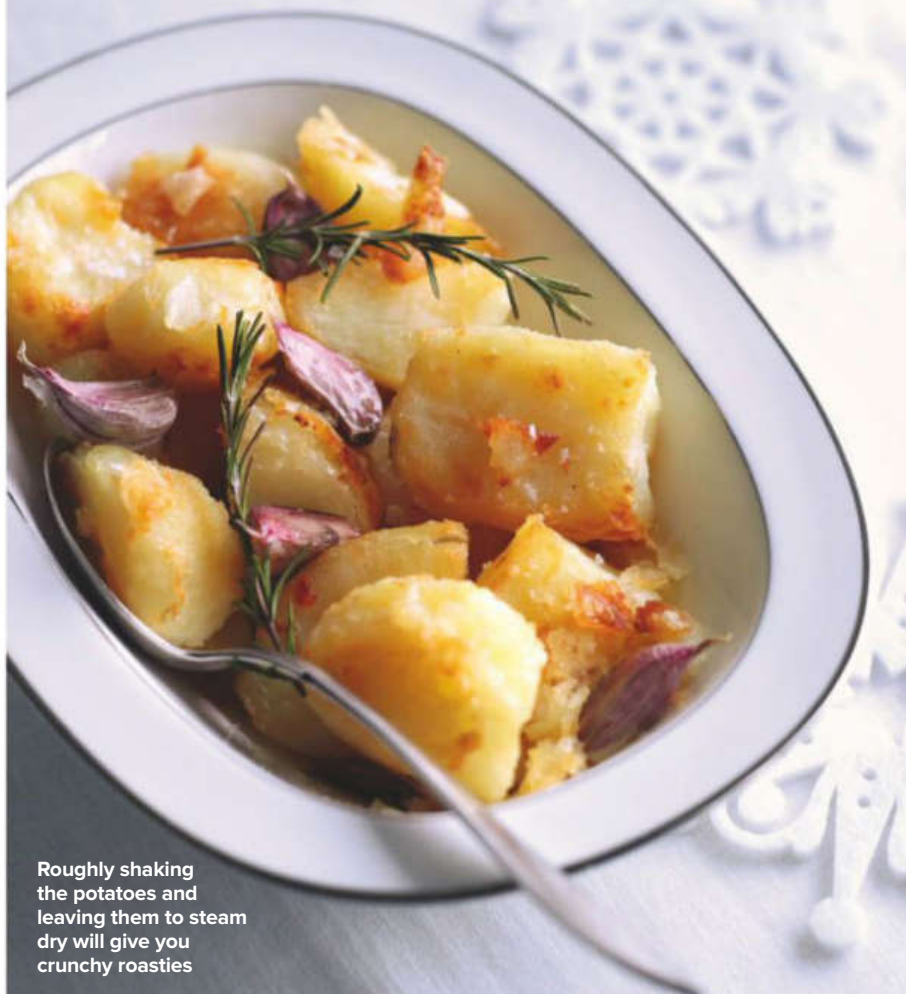
1 Preheat the oven to 200°C/400°F/Gas 6. Put the carrots and parsnips in a roasting tin with the oil and thyme, and season with salt and black pepper. Roast for 30-40min, until tender.

2 Melt the butter and sugar in a heavy-based pan, and cook for 5min over a medium heat, stirring to prevent the mixture sticking. Add 1tsp sea salt flakes. Drizzle the caramel mixture over the roasted vegetables, then return to the oven for a few minutes. Serve topped with extra thyme.

Cook's tip

For the beetroot gratin, try using medium-sized Charlotte potatoes

Cook's tip Make extra roast potatoes so you have some left for bubble and squeak the next day



Roughly shaking the potatoes and leaving them to steam dry will give you crunchy roasties

Perfect roast potatoes

TAKES 20MIN PLUS 40MIN IN THE OVEN

■ 1.2kg Maris Piper potatoes, peeled and halved ■ 6tbsp goose fat ■ 4 garlic cloves, bashed ■ 2 stalks of rosemary, bashed ■ 1 pinch of chilli flakes (optional)

1 Preheat the oven to 200°C/400°F/Gas 6. Cook the potatoes in a pan of boiling salted water for 10min. Drain them well, toss roughly in a colander, then return them to the pan and leave for a few min to steam dry.

2 Meanwhile, heat the goose fat in a large roasting tin until it is very hot. Add the potatoes carefully and toss well to coat. Sprinkle with 2tsp sea salt and the garlic, rosemary and chilli flakes, if using, then toss again. Roast for 40min, turning occasionally.



You can keep this sauce in the fridge for up to eight days

CRANBERRY SAUCE

TAKES 15MIN PLUS COOLING

■ 400g cranberries ■ Juice of 2 oranges ■ 2tbsp dark brown sugar ■ 4tbsp port ■ 5 cloves ■ 1 cinnamon stick

1 Put all the ingredients in a pan. Bring to the boil, then simmer very gently until the cranberries begin to burst. Taste, adding more sugar if needed. Season to taste with salt and black pepper.

2 Remove from the heat and let the sauce cool to room temperature. Chill in an airtight container until 30min before serving.

Packed with vitamins, this green-vegetable medley tastes good, too



Sautéed sprouts, sugar snaps & beans

TAKES 10MIN

■ 250g sprouts, halved if large ■ 250g sugar snap peas ■ 250g green beans, tailed ■ 2tbsp finely chopped shallots ■ 1 garlic clove ■ 75g butter ■ 3 stalks of lemon thyme, leaves picked ■ Splash of white wine

1 Steam the sprouts, sugar snaps and beans for 3-5min until just tender. Refresh under cold running water. Transfer to a bowl of iced water and chill until needed.

2 Sauté the shallots and garlic in the butter for 5min. Add the thyme and white wine, allow to bubble, then toss the vegetables in the sauce until they are warmed through. Season and serve.

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Extra-fruity Christmas pudding

TAKES 6HR 20MIN, PLUS OVERNIGHT SOAKING AND COOLING

■ 100g each of raisins, sultanas, dried apricots and pitted prunes or figs ■ Grated zest and juice of $\frac{1}{2}$ large orange ■ $\frac{1}{2}$ eating apple (Pink Lady or Jazz) ■ $\frac{1}{2}$ tsp ground cinnamon ■ $\frac{1}{2}$ tsp mixed spice (or a mixture of ground nutmeg, allspice and ground cloves) ■ $1\frac{1}{2}$ tbsp good marmalade ■ 3tbsp Oloroso sherry ■ $2\frac{1}{2}$ tbsp brandy ■ $1\frac{1}{2}$ tbsp melted butter ■ 2 eggs ■ 25g flaked almonds ■ 50g ground almonds ■ 65g fresh white or brown breadcrumbs ■ 150ml double cream ■ $\frac{1}{2}$ tbsp icing sugar ■ 1tbsp Calvados or your favourite festive spirit ■ Few fresh or frozen cranberries, to serve ■ Bay leaves, brushed with edible gold lustre, to decorate (optional)

1 Put the raisins and sultanas in a large bowl, then use scissors to cut the apricots and prunes or figs into

small pieces, straight into the bowl. Add the orange zest and juice. Coarsely grate the unpeeled apple straight in, working around the core. Stir in the spices, marmalade, sherry and brandy. Mix well, cover and leave overnight in a cool place (not the fridge).

2 Stir the butter, eggs, flaked and ground almonds and breadcrumbs into the soaked fruit. Place a small disc of greaseproof paper in the base of a 1pt (600ml) buttered pudding basin, pressing it down well. Put the pudding mixture into the basin, then cover it with a piece of pleated nonstick baking paper and cover that with pleated foil. Secure with string

and create a string handle from one side of the basin to the other.

3 Cook over boiling water in a steamer with a tight-fitting lid for 3hr, checking the water every hour and topping it up so it doesn't boil dry. You can save cooking time by using a pressure cooker – check its instructions for exact timings.

4 Take the basin out and leave the pudding to cool completely. Remove the paper and foil, and replace with clingfilm and new foil. Store in a cool place until needed.

5 To reheat, remove the foil, replace the clingfilm with a sheet of nonstick baking paper and put the foil back on. Steam, as above, for 3hr, then leave to cool for 20min.

6 Lightly whip the double cream with the icing sugar and alcohol.

7 Turn your pudding out onto a plate, place a few cranberries on top and add the decorated bay leaves.

Serve with the boozy cream.



If you're going to light your pudding when serving it, remove the berries and leaves

GOT A BAD CASE OF THURSDAY FRIDGE?

WE'VE GOT A RICE FOR THAT.



We've all been there, trying to conjure up something that's good and tasty from what's left in the fridge. Thankfully our range of delicious Heat and Eat rice makes that a whole lot easier any day of the week.

For recipe ideas from Beijing to Barcelona visit www.wevegotariceforthat.com



In the GARDEN

Make the most of your outdoor space this month with our expert tips and essential know-how

FOR WHERE TO BUY ITEMS SHOWN, TURN TO OUR SHOPPING DIRECTORY

Holly comes into its own in winter – perfect for creating festive decorations, the spiked leaves also make an effective slug deterrent

To-do list for **DECEMBER**

PICK holly and other seasonal greenery to use for Christmas decorations, cutting from different sections to avoid heavy pruning that could leave plants vulnerable to frost.

Mix contrasting foliage and yellow and red berries.

PLANT an informal rose hedge if the ground isn't frozen. Bare-rooted plants are available now and are perfect for cheap hedging – try dog rose (*Rosa canina*), which has scarlet hips.

SOW cyclamen seeds in pots now to plant out in spring for attractive autumn blooms and ground cover.

Grow something beautiful...

SORBUS

Sorbus (or rowan) are decorative deciduous trees with autumn and winter berries in a variety of colours, including white, pink, orange and blue, while the red berries are a winter favourite with birds. Many Sorbus have small spring flowers, too.

HOW TO GROW Sorbus trees do best on fertile, well-drained soil, not unlike on a mountain slope. Although they appreciate moist summers, they don't like chalky soils or damp soil around the roots. They prefer full sun or dappled shade, and can cope with exposure. As many species of rowan are quite compact, they're ideal for small gardens. Underplant with early flowering hellebores or bulbs, such as crocus. A good tip from the Victorians was to plant them on a mound to ensure good drainage.



For pretty pink berries that last into December, try *Sorbus pseudovilmorinii*

VARIETIES TO TRY

BEST FOR

Sorbus 'Wisley Gold'



Its branches form a wide, loose canopy, with sprays of small, white flowers followed by long lasting yellow berries.

Planting as a statement specimen tree in a small garden. Its prolific berries offer strong autumn colour.

Sorbus 'Eastern Promise'



With its upright habit and oval crown, this sorbus has white flowers in spring, followed by bright, rose pink berries.

Coastal and other exposed areas. It thrives as a street tree, tolerating different soils and weather conditions.

Sorbus 'Sunshine'



Has an open canopy of feathery leaves and clusters of delicate flowers that attract nectar seeking insects in spring.

Adding drama and helping to lift a dark area. Its light canopy and berries are stunning offset against the reddish stems.

LOOK WHAT WE FOUND!

Brighten up a kitchen by transplanting your favourite supermarket herbs to these lovely retro enamel pots

Big Spot herb pot set, Orla Kiely range, Bloomsbury



Weekend project WITH TOM HART DYKE



Make a knockout statement with a tub-grown tree known

for its winter bark. The Himalayan silver birch (*Betula utilis* var. *jacquemontii*) has shimmering white stems, while the peeling bands on the bark of the Tibetan cherry

(*Prunus serrula*) is beautifully tactile. But my favourite for winter bark is the snow gum (*Eucalyptus pauciflora*), with its patchwork of creamy white and pink bark. Pot one up in a large tub on a patio or drive. Buy a tall, multi-stemmed one and position it to catch the waning winter

sunshine – fairy lights entwined in the stems will show them off even more. **Tom Hart Dyke is a horticulturalist, plant hunter and creator of The World Garden of Plants in Kent**



The Tibetan cherry has striking bark



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WARS
 ONLY IN CINEMAS

*Based on Alkaline Duracell Ultra Power AA vs leading Zinc batteries in Hasbro Lightsaber performance testing. © & TM 2015 Lucasfilm Ltd. © 2015 Hasbro. All Rights Reserved. Used under authorisation.



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TREND ALERT!

TOYS GET A TECH-OVER

From Meccano to magic sets, traditional favourites are being souped up for 21st-century boys and girls

WHY WE LOVE THEM... Hi-tech toys aren't new – I mean, who didn't have a Tamagotchi in their stocking in the mid-Nineties? However, the latest toys are increasingly complex – think Meccano robots you can interact with and magic tricks you can do with your phone. Even the gaming experience has moved on – now, instead of staring at a TV screen, you can wear futuristic headgear and be fully immersed in a virtual reality.

PRODUCTS WE LOVE... I predict that Meccano's Meccanoids will be popular

this year – I also suspect that most kids won't get a look-in as Mum and Dad fulfil their dreams of building their own robot. Virtual Reality (VR) headsets will be big news, too – those, such as Oculus's Rift and HTC's Vive, have a built-in screen and plug into a computer or games console for the ultimate 360° experience with a price tag to match. However, there are more affordable options that have a slot in the front for your phone – just download a few apps to get a feel for what VR has to offer.

Track star ▶

Real FX Racing.
Toys 'R' Us

This track has no slots. Instead, artificial intelligence keeps the radio-controlled cars on the circuit, while you deal with tyre blowouts and pit stops



£99.99

Mobile magic ▶

Marvin's i-Magic Interactive Box Of Tricks, Argos

Amaze friends and family with more than 50 tricks you can do using your Apple or Android phone

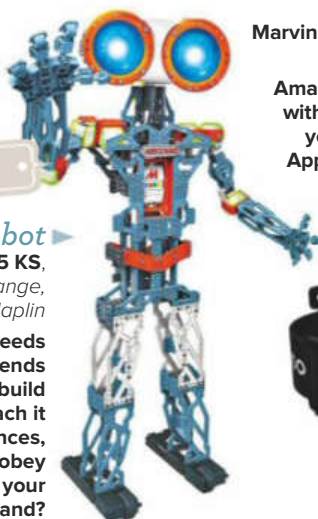


£24.99

Hi, robot ▶

Meccanoid G15 KS,
Meccano range,
Maplin

Who needs imaginary friends when you can build a robot, teach it jokes and dances, and get it to obey (almost) your every command?



£350



£59.99

Other worldly

VR headset,
Homido range,
Amazon.co.uk

This can house a range of Apple and Android phones. Download the app for easy access to some amazing virtual worlds

GIRL ABOUT TECH'S MANIFESTO

I believe that tech should...

- Make your life easier
- Be super-simple to use
- Stand the test of time
- Look good and work brilliantly

FACT! 63% of people would rather give up chocolate than their smartphone

Smart home kit from Samsung

Take control with this easy-peasy home-automation system

FEATURES WE LOVE

1 The system's simple setup. All you have to do is plug the Hub into a power socket and your router, and download the SmartThings app to your iOS, Android or Windows Phone. You can then add as many devices as you like and control them through the app, wherever you are.

2 Its four devices. There's a Motion Sensor, which will send a notification to your smartphone if it detects movement, and a Multi Sensor that will alert you if a window, door or cat flap opens or closes. There's also a Presence Sensor that you can attach to, say, a kid's backpack, so you'll know they've arrived home from school safely. Finally, the Power Outlet can be used to control any appliance that's plugged into it – a godsend for those 'I've left the iron on' moments. It can also be set to a timer, so you could fire up the coffee maker automatically every morning, provided it only needs to be turned on at the mains.

3 Its compatibility. It works with hundreds of devices, including Bose speakers, Honeywell's Wi-Fi heating control, Philips Hue and Lixf light bulbs,

Yale smart locks, D-Link's smart video camera and more Samsung products, such as a Moisture Sensor to detect leaks. Look out for the 'Works with SmartThings' logo, and you'll know that you can add the gadget to your system.

4 You can create rules for any eventuality. Press 'I'm Home' and you could get the door to unlock and a light and music to come on. Or set a timer to get that coffee brewing and to wake you up gently with a sunrise simulation from a Hue bulb. All it takes is a few clicks and the possibilities are endless.



Object of desire

SmartThings starter kit, £199, Samsung

Because it's beautiful

I often hark back to a time before the shuffle button, when the teenage me would drop the needle on my dad's turntable, sink into my beanbag and listen to an LP from start to finish. Of course, the best vinyl experience will come from investing in a top-notch separates system, but for a more affordable starting point, try this portable player from Crosley. It spins 7in and 12in discs, and the RCA Audio output lets you plug in your own speakers for a more powerful sound.



Crosley Cruiser turntable in Mint, £100, Urban Outfitters

£100

This portable turntable has built-in speakers, or you can plug in your own



The hi-tech way to...

Fill their stockings

And they're all under £50



£49.99

Play away

Blufiniti Bluetooth speaker, Otone

Tiny but certainly not tinny, this water-bottle-sized speaker streams music for up to 10 hours per charge and connects with one tap

Tough love

Phone or tablet case, Case Station

This robust design is less prone to fading or cracking. Personalise yours with a photo or pick one of the many fantastic designs available*



£24.99



£19.90

Mighty mouse

Francesca Fox wireless mouse, Play collection, Logitech

Put some fun into homework with this wireless mouse. Francesca works with most PCs and Macs



£19.99

All about the bass

Smile Jamaica Mint in-ear headphones, House of Marley

If you like your bass booming, these eco-conscious wooden earphones are a good option and a portion of each sale goes to the 1Love charity

FEATURE: AMY CUTMORE ILLUSTRATION: MONIKA ROE FACT SOURCES: BT, THE OFFICIAL CHARTS COMPANY *CASES AVAILABLE FOR IPHONES, IPADS AND GOOGLE, MOTOROLA AND SAMSUNG HANDSETS

FACT! Vinyl album sales are up a staggering 69% versus the same period in 2014

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Give your bedroom a fresh new look



Bring shelves to life with bright china and textiles

GET 20% OFF new homeware

Brighten up your interiors with modern, vibrant home accessories from Joules

British lifestyle brand Joules creates covetable clothing for women, men and children that's both practical and fun to wear. So if you love its bright floral wellies or gilets in can't-miss-me colours, you'll be pleased to know that the company's uplifting style is now available as exciting and eclectic homeware.

The collection showcases Joules's passion for distinctive design and attention to detail, and will bring life and colour to your home in the same way as its clothing does to wardrobes.

The statement bed linen, cushions, crockery and tea towels offer a fresh

take on country style, with dynamic patterns and nostalgic prints in bold, vibrant colours that will instantly give a boost to almost any interior.

Heritage-inspired prints have been given a modern update and used on duvet covers and pillowcases, kitchen textiles, tableware and soft furnishings. Choose from bright floral designs with flashes of neon, or contemporary prints with a twist.

Ideal Home has teamed up with Joules to offer you 20% off its exciting product range in store and online. Just use the code IDELAH20 at the checkout when you place your order.

HOW TO GET YOUR 20% DISCOUNT

To receive your 20% discount, go to joules.com, choose your products, then use the code IDELAH20 at the checkout, or visit a Joules store and present this voucher when you pay.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS This offer is valid from 9am on 27 October 2015 until 11.59pm on 8 December 2015. This offer can be redeemed online at joules.com by entering code IDELAH20 and in store at Joules UK stores (excluding concessions) by presenting the code at the checkout. The 20% discount will be applied at the checkout online or in store. This offer may not be used in conjunction with any other Joules offer or discount, or on sale items. Additionally, the discount cannot be redeemed against postage costs nor used to buy Joules gift vouchers. This offer may only be redeemed once, is redeemable against full-priced items only and may not be redeemed against any items already purchased. There is no cash alternative. This offer is subject to availability, while stocks last. Joules reserves the right to change these terms and conditions at any time. These terms and conditions will apply only to this offer and are governed by, and construed in accordance with, the laws of England and Wales, which shall also have jurisdiction in relation to any disputes.



You'll love this...

Epic espresso maker

'Perc' yourself up with the smooth and deliciously intense drinks from this brilliant bean-to-cup coffee machine

Forget tea – it's coffee that makes everything better in my world, and I've learned that the tastiest brew comes from grinding the beans on

the spot, which is what this bean-to-cup machine from Jura does. Not only that, but the E6 also has a unique way of firing the water through the grounds in bursts to tease more flavour from the beans. It's no gimmick – the espressos and ristrettos I tried were super-smooth with not a hint of bitterness. Like a longer drink? Attach the optional vacuum milk container and order a cappuccino from the colour touchscreen.

GIRL ABOUT TECH,
TECHNOLOGY EDITOR AND BLOGGER



E6 bean-to-cup coffee machine, £695, Jura

FEATURE AMY CUTMORE ILLUSTRATION MONIKA ROE

OR TRY ONE OF THESE...

Bean-to-cup machines

FOR WHERE TO BUY ITEMS SHOWN, TURN TO OUR SHOPPING DIRECTORY



Starter model

EA8150, Krups

GIRL ABOUT TECH SAYS
'Designed with newbies in mind, the menu is easy to navigate and it tells you when to run cleaning and descaling programmes'



Barista style

The Oracle, Sage by Heston Blumenthal

GIRL ABOUT TECH SAYS
'This does almost everything automatically, including dosing the coffee and frothing the milk'



Creamy cappuccinos

Autentica Cappuccino, De'Longhi

GIRL ABOUT TECH SAYS
'It's the best at texturing milk, and the carafe cleans itself. Just need a caffeine hit? It makes extra-large double espressos'

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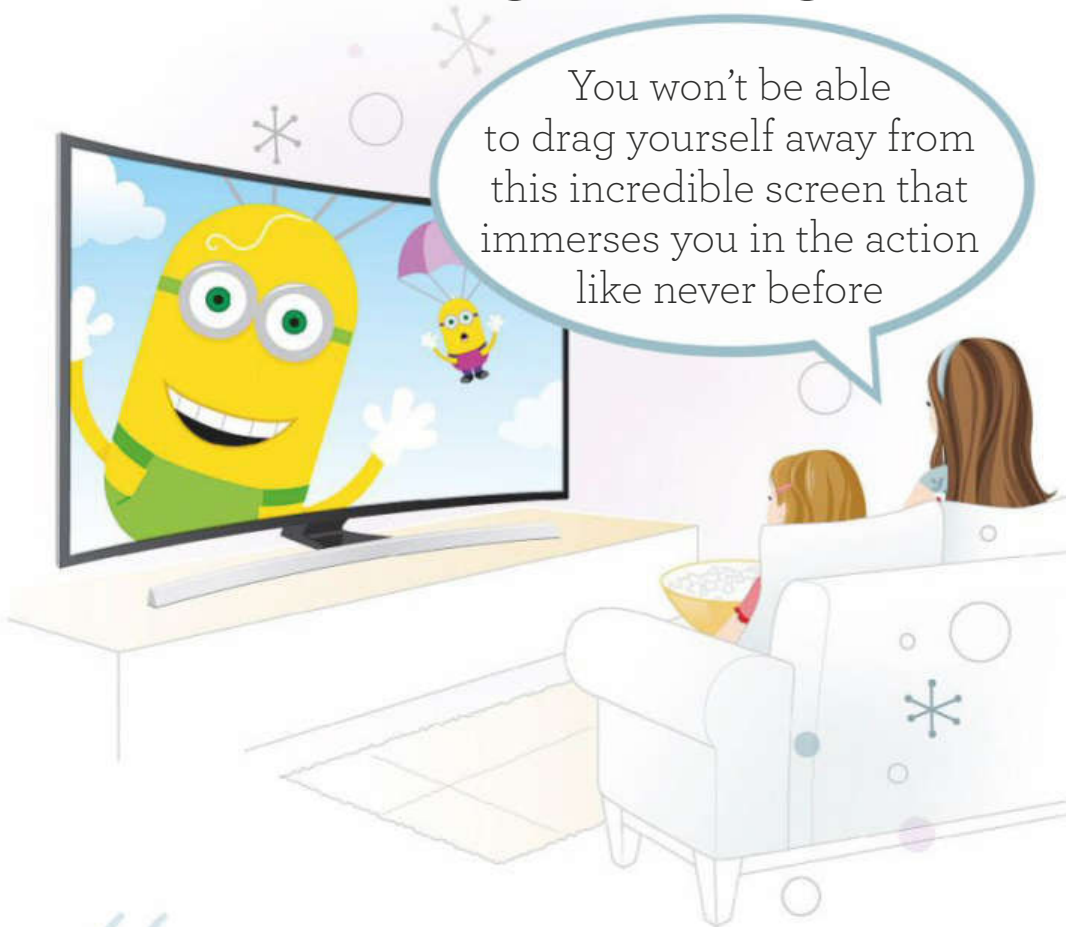


A Media 10 Event

*T&Cs: Book before 11th November 2015 for Manchester, 24th November 2015 for London. Offer valid on Adult On the Door ticket prices only. £17.50 weekday, £19.50 Weekend (London), £15 (Manchester). Concessions not included. £1.70 transaction fee applies. Children aged 15 and under go FREE when accompanied by a paying adult. Calls cost 6p per minute plus your phone company's access charge.

You'll love this...

Attention-grabbing TV



Ready to gorge on some Christmas telly? Then may I suggest this 4K Ultra High Definition (UHD) screen? It delivers four times the detail of a Full HD set for super-clear images and vibrant colours – be that Minions yellow or *Downton Abbey*

beige. Plus, while we wait for the likes of Sky and the BBC to offer more 4K UHD content, this TV can upscale regular HD content for a better picture straightaway. The curved design is more than a style choice – it draws you deeper in, wherever

you sit, so there's no need to fight for the perfect spot, Sheldon Cooper-style, come the Queen's speech...

GIRL ABOUT TECH,
TECHNOLOGY EDITOR
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OF THESE...
4K TVs

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DIRECTORY



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Winning formula

**K321 40in 4K UHD LED
flatscreen TV, Hisense**

GIRL ABOUT TECH SAYS 'Get four times the detail of Full HD, as well as smart apps, such as BBC iPlayer and Netflix, without having to pay big bucks'



£1,699

Beautifully intuitive

**TX-50CX802B 50in 4K UHD
flatscreen TV, Panasonic**

GIRL ABOUT TECH SAYS 'The depth and authenticity of the colour rivals pricier OLED TVs, and Freeview Play lets you watch shows on catch-up straight from the TV guide'



£3,499

Pin-sharp picture

**55EG960V 55in 4K
UHD OLED curved TV, LG**

GIRL ABOUT TECH SAYS 'The impossibly thin screen contains lots of organic light-emitting diodes for an ultra-realistic picture – you'll be amazed at how much more detail you'll see'

WIN £70,000

cash to create a perfect home

Use this amazing cash prize to help you revamp your rooms



As the days get colder and darker, we tend to spend more time cosying up at home. So why not use this time to tackle a decorating project? Whether you've been dreaming about a top-of-the-range kitchen or a new extension, anything is possible with this amazing cash prize.

Most of us need a push to get started on a DIY project, and this could be just the thing to kick-start your plans. Simply check the number printed on the front cover of this issue of Ideal Home, then call, text or send your details following the details provided (right). If the number

on your cover matches the number we give, you could be our lucky winner.

HOW TO CLAIM YOUR PRIZE

If you have checked your number (see right) and you've been informed it's a match, send a photocopy of your front cover, plus your name, address, daytime telephone number and the prize you're claiming to: Ideal Home December Claim Lucky Numbers, Spoke, Titan Court, 3 Bishops Square, Hatfield, Hertfordshire AL10 9NA, to arrive no later than 15 December 2015. Please send by recorded delivery and keep the original cover safe, as we will need it to verify your claim at a later date.

HOW TO ENTER

How to find out if you have a winning number

BY PHONE To see if you have won, call 0906 174 9357. Calls cost £1.50 per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge and should last no longer than two minutes. Have your lucky number ready when you call us.

BY TEXT To see if you have won, text IHA followed by a space and your lucky number (for example, IHA 1234567) to 82772. Texts cost £3 plus your standard network charges. When you enter by text, you may in future get SMS marketing messages from Time Inc. (UK) Ltd and Ideal Home magazine. If you'd prefer not to, please end your text with NO INFO.

BY POST To see if you have won, write your seven-digit lucky number and contact details on a postcard and send to: Ideal Home Lucky Numbers/December Spoke, Titan Court, 3 Bishops Square, Hatfield AL10 9NA to arrive no later than 24 November 2015. You will be notified by letter if you are the lucky winner.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS Competition closes midnight 1 December 2015. The entry instructions form part of the rules. Proof of posting will not be accepted as proof of delivery. All claimants must be in possession of the original Ideal Home December front cover bearing a winning number. In the event of printing or technical errors, omissions or duplications, Time Inc. (UK) Ltd reserves the right to withhold a particular prize or to declare the Game void. Time Inc. (UK) Ltd retains the right, at its discretion, not to award prizes to claimants or consortiums who have won a Lucky Numbers Game in the past 12 months, or to claimants who, in the opinion of Time Inc. (UK) Ltd, have not entered into the spirit of the Game. Prizes must be accepted as offered. No entrant can win more than one prize. The Game is open to all readers aged 18 or over and resident in the UK, and the Channel Islands, other than employees (and their families) of Time Inc. (UK) Ltd the reproduction house, printer and distributor of Ideal Home magazine, wholesale and retail newsagent, SP: Spoke (UK) Ltd and any participating sponsors and their agents. The Editor's decision is final and no other correspondence will be entered into. All winners will be confirmed in writing and must agree to publicity. For Customer Service, call 0333 202 3390.

Appy talk

BEAUTY

Beauty on the go doesn't mean a handbag full of products – these apps will make sure you're always perfectly polished



MAKEUP GENIUS
iOS and Android, free

While there are plenty of make-up apps that leave you looking more clown than catwalk-ready, Makeup Genius is smarter. It uses mapping technology to scan your face in real time, so you can add eyeshadow and lipstick, and move your face with the 'make-up' in place. You can also save pictures, switch products and try on preloaded celebrity looks to feel red-carpet fabulous.

ALSO TRY Virtual Makeover, free for iOS and Android



WAHANDA
iOS and Android, free
Wahanda is a quick-click solution to booking beauty treatments at a price to suit you. Find salons and spas in your area (there are more than 7,000 to choose from nationwide), search by type of treatment, book or reschedule an appointment time and even browse special offers. The really great bit is that there are ratings and reviews from previous customers.

ALSO TRY WhatSalon, free for iOS and Android



THINK DIRTY
iOS, free
No giggling at the back! Think Dirty is actually a hugely addictive scanning app for those who prefer their beauty products to be natural. Scan the product's barcode and it'll give you a rating from one to 10 based on how many nasties are lurking in the bottle, as well as information on the natural ingredients it contains. It will also show you product alternatives that are 'cleaner'.

ALSO TRY Skin Deep, free for iOS



MIRROR
Windows Phone, free
This smart app does exactly what it says on the tin,

turning your phone into a clear mirror that's perfect for touching up make-up, replacing a contact lens or banishing lipstick from your teeth. You'll need to have a front-facing camera but unlike the selfie option on your phone, you get a realistic mirror view. It's also equipped with a flip mode, so you can change your mirror to a real view in a flash.

ALSO TRY @Mirror, free for iOS, or Mirror, free for Android



FACETUNE
iOS, £2.99; Android, £1.99; Windows Phone, £2.29

Selfie fans and casual snappers alike will love this app for its easy portrait touch-ups, meaning you'll never have to delete a dodgy picture again. You can whiten teeth, smooth out skin or whisk away pimples. There's also the option of tinting lips, cheeks or eyes, erasing stray hairs and removing red eye before finishing with a studio-style filter.

ALSO TRY Visage Lab, free for iOS and Android



iDRATED
iOS, 79p
If there was a product that promised to keep your skin looking younger and plumper, it'd be flying off the shelves. Fortunately, that's what drinking water does, so an app that monitors your daily intake is a no-brainer. It's simple to log every glass and it gives you gentle nudges to drink more – you can also see your stats for the last seven days and set target levels.

ALSO TRY Water Your Body, free for Android



MOTIONX 24/7
iOS, 79p
Getting enough sleep is one of the most important tools in your beauty box of tricks. Make sure you snooze sweetly with MotionX 24/7, which monitors how well you're sleeping and can be set to wake you at the best time in a cycle. It includes an alarm for power naps, soothing white noise or fade-out music to nod off to, a heart-rate monitor and an activity tracker.

ALSO TRY Sleep Cycle alarm clock, 99p for Android; 79p for iOS



ASK BOBBI
iOS, free
Smoky eyes? Check. Glowing cheeks? Done. Elegant brows? Nailed it. Ask Bobbi (from make-up guru Bobbi Brown) is full of step-by-step guides. Just type in what you need advice on (topics range from make-up for glasses wearers to bridal beauty) and Bobbi will suggest a how-to. It can also locate your nearest make-up counter, so you can book a free lesson.

ALSO TRY Beauty App, £1.49 for Windows Phone

Girl About Tech explains...

Multi-room music systems

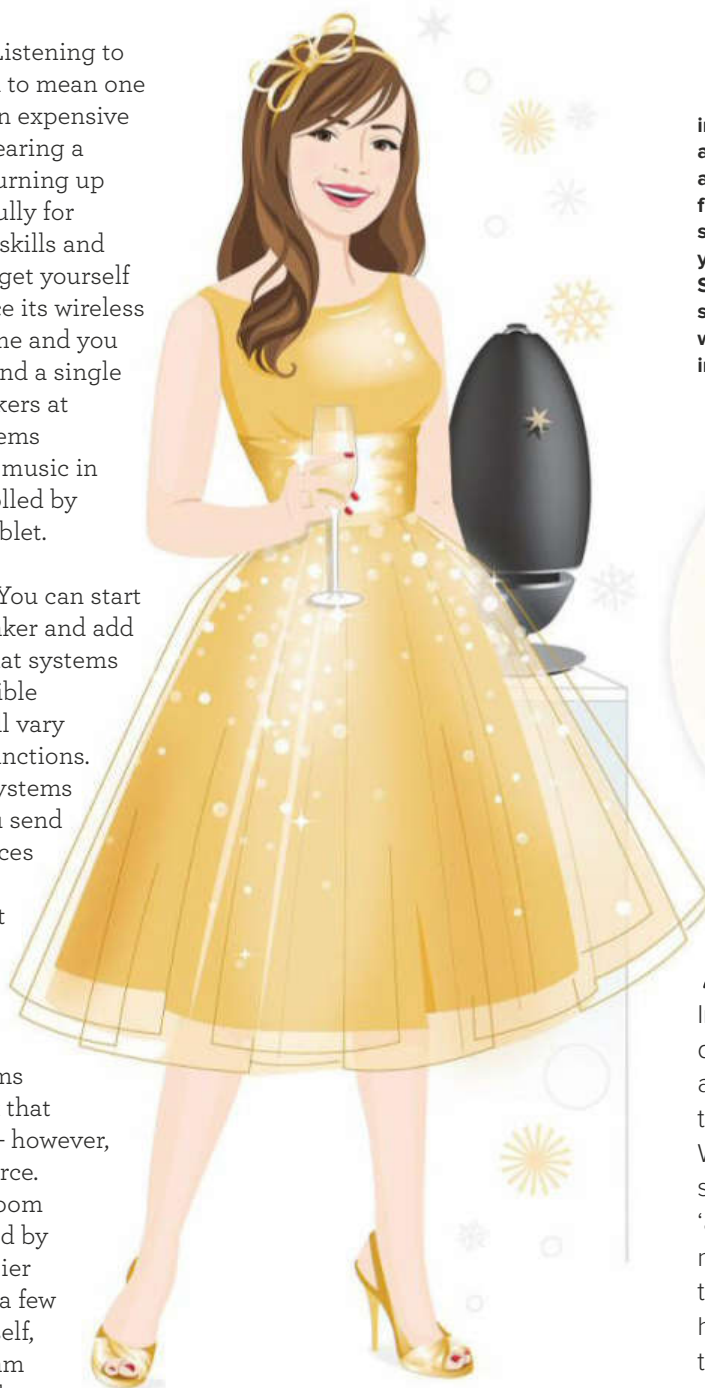
Spread the party to every corner of your home this Christmas with connected speakers

WHAT ARE THEY? Listening to music in every room used to mean one of three things – having an expensive audio system installed, wearing a Walkman at all times or turning up the hi-fi to ‘11’. But thankfully for your bank balance, social skills and neighbours, you can now get yourself a multi-room system. Place its wireless speakers around your home and you can connect to them to send a single song to one or more speakers at the same time. Some systems also let you play different music in different rooms, all controlled by just one smartphone or tablet.

WHAT DO I NEED? You can start out with just a single speaker and add as you go, but be aware that systems often aren’t cross-compatible with other brands, and will vary in terms of quality and functions.

Powerful Wi-Fi-based systems such as Sonos, will let you send music from different sources to different places, so you can send a Spotify playlist to your living room, local radio to the kitchen and tracks from your iTunes library to the bedroom. Traditionally, these systems required a ‘bridge’ – a box that plugged into your router – however, these are increasingly scarce.

More simplistic multi-room speakers, like those offered by Philips and Ruark, are easier to set up just by pressing a few buttons on the speaker itself, but they only let you stream the same track between places.



1 CHOOSE A SYSTEM

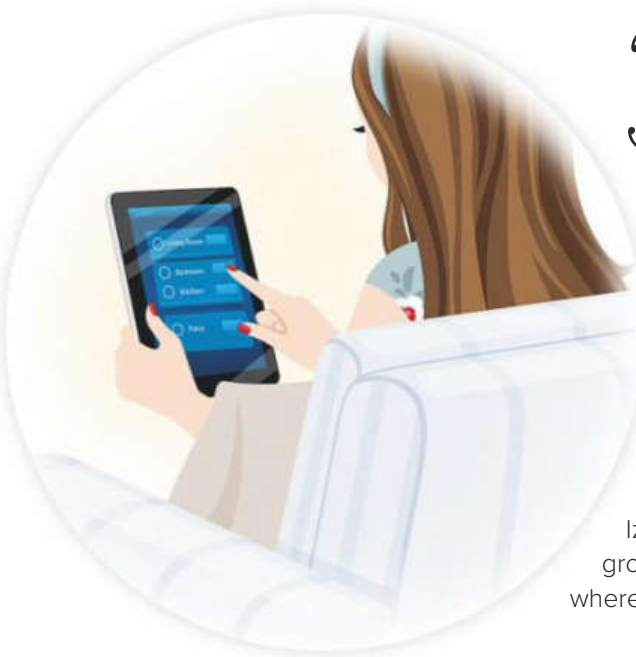
The multi-room system you pick will depend on what’s most important to you. Do you value supreme audio quality over everything else, or are you after something that’s easy, fun and affordable? Do you want similar speakers in each room, or would you prefer a wider range of options? Samsung, for example, lets you add soundbars and TVs to its system, while Philips and Panasonic both include CD players in their line-up.



2 CONNECT THE SPEAKERS

In the case of Wi-Fi systems, first download the free companion app and make sure your smartphone or tablet is connected to your home Wi-Fi network. Now power up your speaker, open the app and select ‘add a new speaker’ – you might need to press a pairing button on the speaker, too. Some systems have an extra step that optimises the sound depending on where you place the speaker in the room.

FEATURE AMY CUTMORE ILLUSTRATIONS MONIKA ROE



3 CREATE ZONES

Once you've added a few speakers, you'll usually have the option to group them together – for example, by room – so they're easier to control. Some systems also let you pair up individual speakers to re-create left-right stereo separation or even a full 5.1 surround-sound experience. However, you might be limited in the number of speakers that will play the same song at once. In the case of Philips' Izzy basic Bluetooth system, you can group together up to five speakers, whereas for others, there's no limit!

4 CONVERT OLDER EQUIPMENT

Plenty of wireless systems – such as those from Denon, Samsung and Pure – let you integrate older equipment via an adaptor. In some cases, you can even hook up a turntable and play vinyl through the house, which should please those who think analogue sound is superior to digital.



5 SUBSCRIBE TO MORE MUSIC

With your music collection easier to access than ever, it's inevitable you'll tire of your own library of songs – yes, even *Everybody (Backstreet's Back)*. That's why lots of multi-room speakers can be used alongside music services like Spotify, TuneIn Radio and Google Play Music, putting millions more (and possibly less-embarrassing) tracks at your disposal. Once you've subscribed, systems like Sonos and Bose will let you access the service through their controller app. Also look out for speakers that support Spotify Connect. These stream tracks from your Spotify account directly over Wi-Fi, rather than using your phone as a medium, so when you go to answer a call, the tunes won't stop.



Try these... MULTI-ROOM SYSTEMS



New and improved
Play range, Sonos

GIRL ABOUT TECH SAYS 'Includes this revamped Play:5, £429, with room-filling sound and on-speaker controls for volume and skipping tracks'



Lots of options

All Series range, Panasonic

GIRL ABOUT TECH SAYS 'A hi-fi, standalone speakers, CD player, clock radio and soundbars can be added to this system, and it supports Spotify Connect'



Style leader

R2 Mk3 system, Ruark Audio

GIRL ABOUT TECH SAYS 'It's one of the prettiest speakers I've seen, plus you can group up to eight together and stream the same track to all of them'



Simple streaming
Izzy range, Philips

GIRL ABOUT TECH SAYS 'Link up to five Izzy speakers by pressing the "group" button'. There's a compact design, and one with a CD player and radio'

Meet the brand MAGIMIX

Unlike those gadgets that quickly give up the ghost, the Magimix processor promises decades of loyal service



5200XL food processor, £400, Magimix

Hailed by the *New York Times* as 'The French revolution of the 20th century', the Magimix is one of only a handful of appliances that's truly iconic. With such fans as Mary Berry and 'Deliciously Ella' Woodward, its success has a lot to do with its roots – it was invented by a French catering-equipment salesman to help his pro-chef clients prep ingredients. Today, the processor motor is guaranteed for 30 years, so you can be sure it will be a long-lasting helping hand in your kitchen

GIRL ABOUT TECH,
TECHNOLOGY EDITOR AND BLOGGER

TWO MORE HERO DESIGNS

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TURN TO OUR SHOPPING DIRECTORY



Soup star

Le Blender,
Magimix

GIRL ABOUT TECH SAYS

'The blades inside the large heat-resistant glass jug blend ingredients incredibly finely for ultra-smooth soups and smoothies. It can quickly crush ice, too'



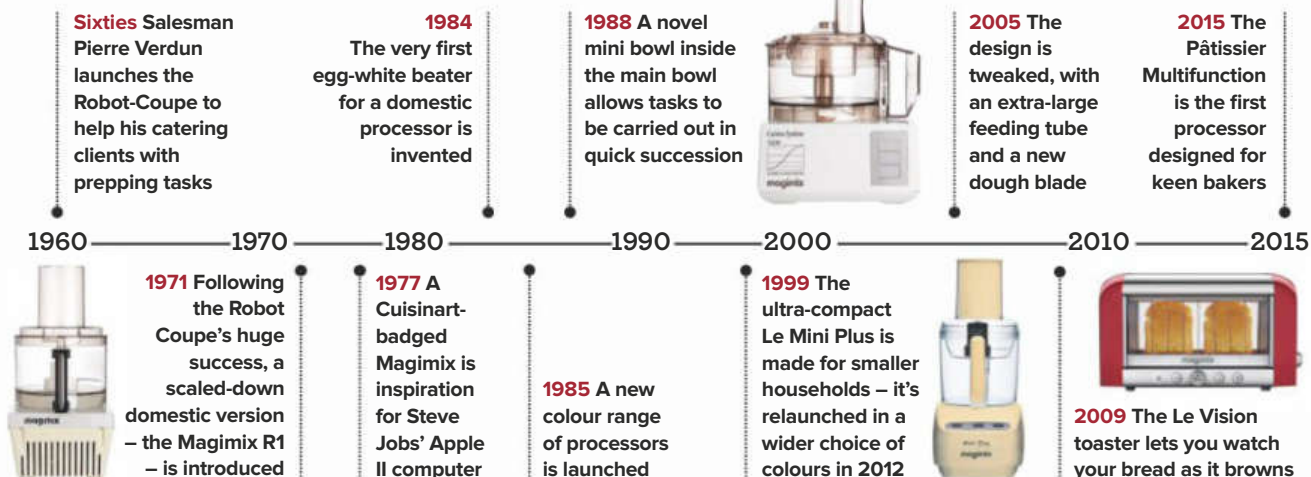
Instant whip

Gelato Chef, Magimix

GIRL ABOUT TECH SAYS

'Makes 1.5ltr of deliciousness in less than 30min, and you don't have to remember to chill the bowl beforehand – very handy when they all scream for ice cream'

A BRIEF HISTORY OF MAGIMIX



VISIT THE Ideal Home Show at Christmas

Find everything you need for a magical festive season
under one roof – and take a friend along for free



Discover
seasonal gifts
and decorating
inspiration



Get cooking tips
from celebrity chef
Gino D'Acampo



Find beautiful
Christmas
decorations

This winter, the Christmas edition of the Ideal Home Show, sponsored by Gocompare.com, is returning to EventCity Manchester from 12 to 15 November and, for the first time, will be coming to Olympia London from 25 to 29 November.

This annual shopping event brings you everything you need to get set for Christmas. With hundreds of exhibitors across seven sections, including Interiors & Furnishings, Food & Drink, Home Improvements & Outdoor Living, Fashion & Beauty, Technology & Gadgets, Gifts and Christmas Decorations, it's the biggest home

show at Christmas. Plus, you can enjoy live music, see cookery demonstrations from top celebrity chefs and discover the new toy-filled Christmas Arcade.

After a day of shopping, enjoy a glass of bubbly at the Champagne Bar, sponsored by Hydropool. Whether you're after a family day out, a shopping trip or some pamper time, this year's show will get you in a festive mood.

VISIT THE CAKE & BAKE SHOW

Your ticket to the Ideal Home Show at Christmas at EventCity Manchester will also give you free entry to the Manchester Cake & Bake Show.

GET YOUR 2-FOR-1 TICKETS

Book now and you can get two weekday tickets for the London show for £17.50, two weekend tickets for £19.50* or two Manchester show tickets for just £15*. For the London show, call 0844 209 7330 or visit idealhomeshowchristmas.co.uk and quote offer code IHM241. For Manchester, call 0844 209 7366 or visit idealhomeshowmanchester.com and quote offer code IHM241.

* Book before 11 November 2015 for the Manchester show and before 24 November 2015 for the London show. Offer valid on adult on the door ticket prices only (£17.50 on week days and £19.50 at weekends for the London show, all tickets £15 for the Manchester show). Concessions not included. £1.70 transaction fee applies. Children aged 15 and under go free when with a paying adult. Calls cost 6p per minute plus your phone company's access charge.



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Ideal Home has teamed up with Bloom & Wild to give readers £10 off their first order. Simply decide who you're going to treat this Christmas, then visit bloomandwild.com/ideal or download the free app on iPhone and Android, entering the code IDEAL at the checkout, to choose from the beautiful flowers available.

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Treat someone to a present from Heathcote & Ivory's Rainforest collection



SAVE 20% on beauty treats

Find a special gift for a loved one with Heathcote & Ivory's new collection, which is inspired by the exotic scents of the rainforest

Whether you want to find the perfect Christmas present for someone you love or fancy buying an indulgent, pampering treat for yourself, Heathcote & Ivory is a great place to look. With lovely body products, from hydrating creams to cleansing hand wash, as well as exciting home-fragrance accessories, such as drawer liners and oil diffusers, there's something to suit all tastes.

As well as its usual floral ranges, Heathcote & Ivory now has a new Rainforest collection of body and home products – the latest installment

in its Explore, Dream, Discover trilogy. Inspired by the fragrance of a green rainforest canopy on the breeze, the collection captures the heady scents of tiare flower, bergamot and ylang-ylang, with the warmth of green tea, black pepper and amber, as well as orange and pink grapefruit notes.

To celebrate the launch of the new Rainforest collection, Heathcote & Ivory is offering Ideal Home readers an exclusive 20% off all orders placed online. Simply visit heathcote-ivory.com until 31 December 2015 to choose your favourite products.

HOW TO GET YOUR 20% DISCOUNT

To redeem your 20% discount, simply visit heathcote-ivory.com and enter the code **IDEALTREATS** at the checkout.

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Marketplace



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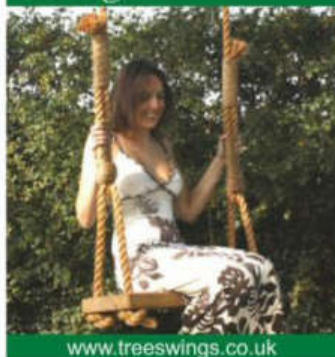
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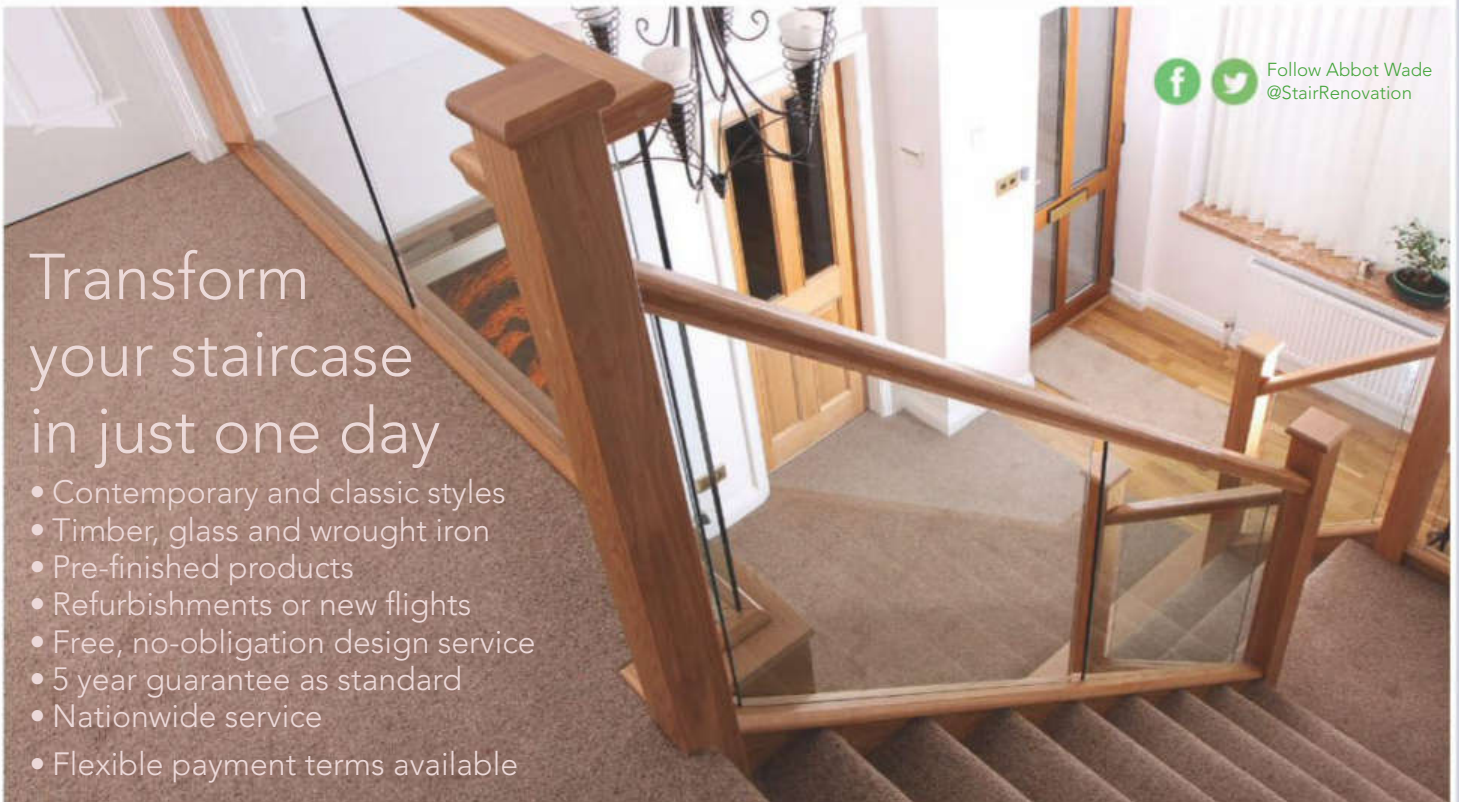
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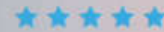


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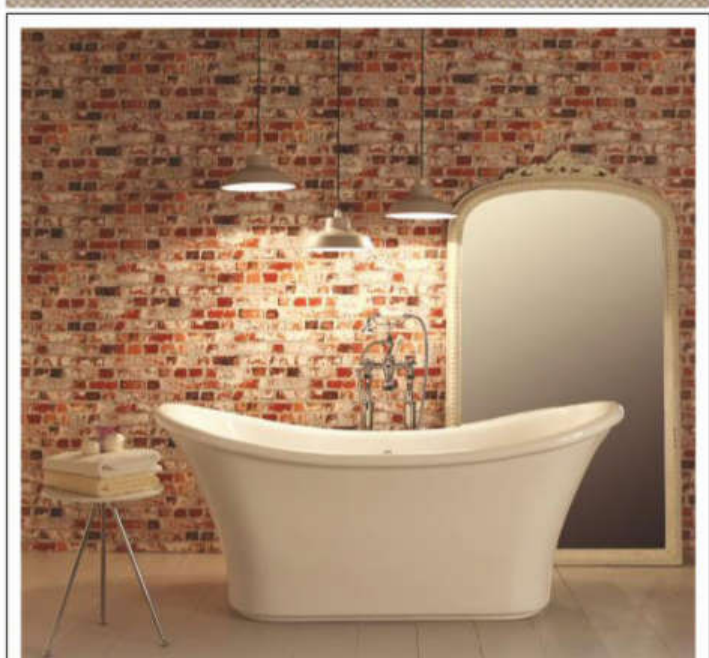
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